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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH 2015

Properties of the Week

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!

See our feature on pages 18-19

SIX NATIONS RUGBY:

WALES AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION

BACK PAGE PREVIEW - PAGE 40

BEAVERS AND CUBS PLANT FOR CHARITY!

ABOVE: THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, was at Old Hall Gardens to see local Beavers and Cubs planting the narcissi for Marie Curie Cancer Care. (See next week for a report and more pictures by MIKE WILCOCK).

Darren Farm proposal is opposed by town council

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE members of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council have officially objected to the proposed housing development at Darren Farm.

The planning committee considered a lengthy list of objections from local groups and individual residents, before deciding to oppose the proposal by Commercial Estates Group (CEG).

At this stage, the developers were putting in a planning application for a link road from the A48 to the Llantwit Major Road, but that will only be built if permission is granted for housing on Darren Farm.

The existing proposal is for 390 houses, and a new school. The town council document that details their objections has been sent to the Vale Council planning committee, which will have to decide on the issue, is very lengthy – too long for an article in this newspaper – but it can be read in full on the council's website (*see details at the end of this article*).

Local groups who have opposed the plan, will no doubt be pleased that the council has thrown its weight behind the campaign.

In truth, most of the objections in the council's letter have been raised by the protest groups, and many have appeared in letters to The GEM.

To summarise, it is fair to say that Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is now firmly in favour of a new development on the brownfield areas of Llandow, with councillors favouring a new settlement rather than adding on extras to Cowbridge.

Concerns raised during the councillors' discussion included the fear that the new link road would encourage a "rat run through Llanblethian, as cars avoided the high street during rush hour and headed straight for the link road".

Another concern discussed by councillors was the fear that parking in the town would be overloaded by residents of the new development.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

VC hero identified... 160 YEARS LATE

by GABE THOMAS

RECENT research has finally identified a Cowbridge Grammar School old boy as one of the first recipients of the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the Crimean war.

Assistant Surgeon William Sylvester was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1855, for conspicuous bravery in attending to the wounded while under enemy fire at Sebastopol, out in front of the British lines. He was among those honoured at Queen Victoria's first award ceremony in 1857.

The late Iolo Davies, last headmaster of the Grammar School, found references to a Cowbridge holder of the VC while researching his book *A Certaine School* in the 1960s. Although he suspected that the holder was an old boy of the Grammar School, he was unable to prove it.

His research was taken forward by the late Jeff Alden, schoolmaster and local historian, but although he identified the recipient, one Sylvester, as the son of a Cowbridge doctor, he wasn't able to complete the link to the Grammar School.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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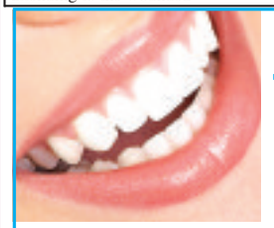

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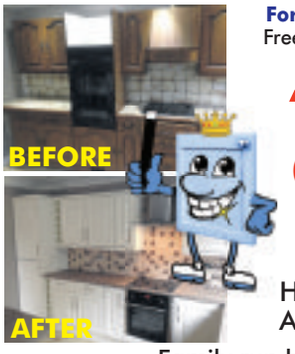

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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Wales is so beautiful... WHY SPOIL IT WITH LITTER?

I AM an Englishman who has lived in Wales for more than 30 years, and I have frequently heard of people saying how proud they are of the beautiful Welsh countryside.

I agree with them, it is beautiful and spectacular.

What I cannot understand is why so many people treat it as a place to throw their litter and rubbish.

Empty cans, bottles, paper bags, plastic bags. empty or half empty take-away food containers, piles of cigarette ends or any other rubbish that people throw away, do nothing to improve the countryside.

When I cross the bridge to visit my relatives in England, I notice the litter problem is just as bad there.

The next time you walk or drive around, have a look and take notice of how much litter there is – and maybe make the pride in the Welsh countryside stop you adding to it.

D Andrews,
Llantwit Major.

Setting record straight about the NIMBYs

HAVING read the various letters which have appeared in The GEM over the past few weeks regarding housing development in the rural Vale, I felt compelled to write.

There appears to be a gross misunderstanding of the views of those of us living in the rural Vale with regard to the proposals in the Vale's Local Development Plan, and the subsequent planning applications, made in haste, prior to the independent scrutiny of the plan by the LDP inspector.

Just to set the record straight, we are not a group of elitist 'NIMBYs', as has been suggested by some of your readers. We appreciate that there is a need for housing in the Vale and we know that we may all have to take a share in meeting that need.

However, what we are proposing is that development is fair and equitable and that appropriate infrastructure is put in place which is fit for purpose.

How can we secure this when the Vale is passing planning applications before the independent inspector has had the opportunity to comment on the LDP proposals?

This is true for those of us living in the rural Vale as it is of the major conurbations of Barry, Penarth and Cowbridge. Just as your reader has shared concerns regarding retaining green spaces in the Barry area, so are residents in the rural Vale concerned about retaining its green spaces too.

If we are to secure appropriate, affordable housing, with suitable amenities, facilities and infrastructure to support it (ie social, health, education, road and commuter links), we need to speak with one voice, not as disparate groups at odds with one another, and let the independent planning officer make the decision about the LDP process.

Sian Evans,
Ystradowen.

See more letters on page 17.

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'Colwinston needs affordable housing for our children'

I HAVE to take issue with John Evans (GEM letters, February 19) as he suggests that Colwinston and other rural villages smack of "self-preservation to maintain some sort of misguided elitist community".

This is completely untrue. Colwinston Community Council has long advocated affordable housing for our village and the Vale planning committee has recently ridden roughshod over the wishes of local people.

Instead of insisting that Redrow build the usual 35 per cent onsite affordable houses for their proposed development of 64 houses (a 40 per cent increase in village size), our mediocre representatives (with the exception of our local Conservative member, one Plaid Cymru member, and one UKIP member) happily agreed a reduced onsite provision equating to 25 per cent.

Even worse, 10 per cent is being paid by the developer to be used for affordable housing elsewhere in the Vale.

We need the housing for our children and Mr Evans is completely misguided in thinking that anyone in our village thinks otherwise!

This is not a balanced and sensible approach.

Ed Lewis,
Vice Chairman, Colwinston Community Council)

High rise flats the answer?

FURTHER to your request for views on housing issues, I would like to say that if we build high rise flats in appropriate places such as Cardiff and keep the influx of those needing to be housed there, this would help to alleviate the problem.

People in other countries live in high rise flats, so why not here? Local people do not want to see all the countryside torn up just for housing and the powers that be should try to discourage people from having more than two children.

That way it would reduce the population eventually. Why should Vale villages be ruined by the imposition of having large estates imposed on them, just to reduce their property prices?

It is those Vale property owners who pay very dearly in council taxes to enjoy their surroundings, and don't forget their taxes go towards those living off the state, so don't envy them.

People should aspire to achieve the same.

Chris Turner,
Barry.

Safety upgrade is completed

FOLLOWING representation made to me by local residents, I met with officers of the Vale Council Highways on site about the Cuckoo Mill Bridge, which often gets flooded in the winter during periods of heavy rainfall.

There have been tricky situations where small cars have nearly been swept into the river but for the railings holding them back.

I know that drivers sometimes find it difficult to judge just how deep the water is over the bridge, especially when the river is in full flood – and the river can be very swift running – so I requested that depth markers be installed.

I also asked for cross-hatching to be put on the railing ends to better define the bridge either at night or when flooded.

I am pleased to confirm that the work has been completed in record time and this bridge should be much safer for people to use in the future.

Coun Jeff James,
Rhoose.

'End the madness of payment to EU'

I READ so often in the newspapers that thousands of people are relying on foodbanks.

Many elderly people are having to choose between eating or keeping warm. Yet the country contributes £50 million a day to the EU.

It is sheer madness. Can anyone explain this to me?

I believe the sooner we get out of the EU the better for everyone.

EM Grier,
Porthcawl.

For or against 'bedroom tax'?

WE are used to seeing the photogenic Mr Cairns in the local newspapers championing good causes, but if that's not enough, he even posts his 'Chronicle' via Royal Mail now.

He's beginning to feel like part of the family! He is against Post Office closures – ironic, as it's his party that privatised the service.

I wonder if he might like to express his opinion on the hated 'bedroom tax'?

As he appears to oppose every other tax increase, he should tell us if he voted for or against an unpopular tax that affects so many of his constituents.

(Name and address supplied).

Who is trying to kid whom?

With the general election some three months away, I thought I would have a read of the 'Barry Chronicle', which came through my letterbox.

I read most of the articles, but the one that caught my eye was referring to the chance of another increase in council tax.

What really caught my attention was the statement by Barry resident, Janice Charles; is this the same person who was at one time a Conservative councillor in the Vale of Glamorgan?

If it is the same ex-councillor, who are Conservatives trying to kid by suggesting she is only a local resident?

If it isn't the ex-councillor, I apologise for suggesting that political parties would act in such an underhand way.

Mark Bell,
Barry.

NUCLEAR PLANT: 'IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN!

IT may never happen – the new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point, over the water clearly visible from the Vale of Glamorgan!

French firm EDF which holds a guarantee from the UK Government to force billpayers to pay double the going rate for electricity for 35 years, is worried, because with the collapse in wholesale energy prices, there is a strong desire to renegotiate by the UK government.

All Government business ceases in March due to the pending election and so the Commons Public Accounts Committee is not going to review the situation until the new Government is formed.

Meanwhile, Austria has decided it will challenge the legality of Brussels giving the 'green light' to the deal.

This delays the construction further and other possible overseas investors are suddenly losing interest.

It was the previous Labour leadership who promised to build four new nuclear power stations.

This was continued by the Coalition in 2010, followed by the approval of the European Commission.

Now safety aspects of the project are also in contention; for example the French are refusing to let EDF operate without a secondary pressure valve, which the Company feel is unnecessary.

Oh Dear. Will it ever blight the view from south Wales?

Where's that crystal ball?

Christopher Short,
Barry.
(Former chairman, Friends of the Earth Cymru).

'Build on the brownfields'

I STRONGLY believe that the applicant to build 390 houses on Darren Farm, Mr John Homfray, of Penllyn Estates should reconsider his intention to urbanise our green environment and, consequently, radically alter the nature of the market town of Cowbridge for ever.

As a past chairman of the Country Landowners Association, a former chairman of the local Conservative Party, and also the largest landowner in the Vale of Glamorgan, surely he should show leadership, support the vast majority of the population of Cowbridge and the surrounding villages, and withdraw his unpopular application?

This is a plea for readily available brownfield sites to be built on before we destroy our green and pleasant land.

Edwin Appleby,
Colwinston.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL FEBRUARY 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	11.53	8.2		
27 Fri	00.25	7.9	13.06	7.7
28 Sat	01.51	7.5	14.39	7.5
01 Sun	03.17	7.7	15.55	7.9
02 Mon	04.22	8.3	16.47	8.4
03 Tues	05.11	8.8	17.29	8.9
04 Wed	05.51	9.2	18.08	9.2
05 Thur	06.24	9.4	18.42	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Flooding, just yards from the houses in Westgate.

'Flooding in town casts doubt on proposed' housing'

says residents' group

THERE were flash floods in the Westgate area of Cowbridge at 5pm on Sunday, February 22.

Traffic had to take care on the main road into the town and along Llanfrynach Lane just outside Cowbridge.

It led a local residents' group to question the wisdom of building at Darren Farm.

Chris Pearce, the co-ordinator of the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents Group, pointed out that the Westgate area is in close proximity to Darren Farm fields, the site of the CEG-proposed development of 390 houses and a link road.

He said: "The planning application proposes a sustainable urban drainage scheme (SUDS) which it is claimed would maintain the effect of floodwater at 'baseline level' – even with the large amount of surface water run-off caused by the impermeable surfaces of the proposed housing and road development."

Mr Pearce also claimed: "These pictures clearly show a water outflow well above normal 'baseline level' which would be exacerbated by the proposed development to an extent to cause probable flood damage to the houses in Westgate.

"This type of flooding event, which has happened several times in the past, such as in 2000 and 2001, causing flood damage in Westgate, is one which the flood alleviation measures proposed in the planning application could not cope with."

ABOVE:
Flood water coming down in a torrent from the fields of Darren Farm.

The ancient cross in Llanfrynach Church had the water lapping around the base.

Preserve Cowbridge's history – POST HASTE!

SO the new visitor panels will tell the story of Cowbridge... Sarah Smith says Cowbridge has a rich and interesting story.

Pity then that they destroyed a piece of that history by the Market Place, formerly the Masons' Arms.

In the 1890s, Mr Lewis Jenkins of the Masons' Arms, erected three iron posts on the pavement to mark his land. The Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of the borough brought an action against Mr Jenkins. They lost, and so the iron posts remained.

One was lost in a traffic accident, one can still be seen – but the other was removed for the panel.

I challenge Sarah Smith and the Cowbridge town team to find the post and restore it to its proper place. Let us preserve our rich history!

I have a copy of an article on these iron posts which appeared in The GEM sometime in the 1990s.

ALAN BRIGHAM, Cowbridge.

The Corporation goes to Court

IN October of 1894, the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Cowbridge brought an action against Mr Lewis Jenkins, an Alderman of the Corporation, to recover damages for trespass.

The case was tried by Judge Gwilym Williams at Bridgend County Court. The action was brought to decide the ownership of a small piece of land that formed a part of the pavement outside the house of which the defendant was the owner, the Masons' Arms Inn.

Mr Jenkins had erected three iron posts upon the pavement in front of the inn, and these were the posts of which the Corporation complained.

The Corporation claimed that, in putting the posts there, Alderman Jenkins had committed a trespass on property of which they were the owners.

One of the laywers conducting the case described the site as being opposite the Eagle Stores, which had formerly been the place of education of many distinguished men, to which the Judge replied that he did not claim distinction but that he had in fact been educated there in early life.

The Corporation stated that since 1873, they had collected tolls for stalls on market and fair days for this site, and also that sheep pens and stalls on the pavement in question.

Unfortunately, the Corporation were unable to produce any evidence of having collected the tolls or shilling per year rent within living memory, and the Judge was unable to pass judgement in their favour. In fact, the Judge advised the Borough Corporation to 'wake up' and to revise their method of looking after Borough property.

The three iron posts in question may be seen outside the inn today.

Cowbridge Music Festival... A FORCE FOR JOY AND FUN!

RIGHT:
Mary Elliott and Rotary president Mike MacPhail.

SOME enchanted evening was had by Cowbridge Rotary Club when the mover and shaker of the music festival gave a presentation on Monday, February 16.

Mary Elliot is a very talented musician, and, before talking to the club about the festival, she played her cello, with her friend Eluned Pierce on the harp.

Just a couple of pieces, by J S Bach, Britten and Saint-Saens, but as you might expect from such internationally-acclaimed performers, the result was musicianship of the highest quality.

The audience was left wanting more; but Mary had come to tell the tale of the music festival, and so she started on a sparkling account of how it all began.

It began, it seems, from a couple of beers and a broken relationship, and the sudden realisation that it would be a brilliant idea to create a music festival, here in Cowbridge, a positive force for joy, rather than moping about the past.

What could the festival bring to our town? Well, firstly it could bring world class music to Cowbridge. Then, it could give opportunities for young Welsh musicians to take part in master classes and suchlike.

It could also put Cowbridge firmly on the world stage. It could make classical music more accessible for everybody (there's always a bar somewhere at the performances); and finally, it could bring great music into the community, by going out into the local schools with some of these world-class musicians and really involving with students face to face.

And what has been the result? All this and more has been achieved, and the Cowbridge Music Festival goes from strength to strength.

From September 17 to 25, there will be some 40 top quality musicians from around the globe to perform in this year's festival.

As in previous years, while the focus will be on great classical music, there will also be slots for other styles such as jazz and folk.

When Mary was asked how big she wanted the show to be, the answer was: "*As big as it gets; but it stays in Cowbridge, because that's where my heart is*."

Even after all these years living in Lausanne, Switzerland, Cowbridge is still home. It's going to be another busy year for her, so here's wishing her lots of luck for a great Cowbridge Music Festival in 2015! **AB**

Recycling bins and fly tipping!

A READER'S VIEWPOINT

WHILE agreeing wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed in the recent '*Council's warning on town fly tipping***' article in The GEM, I can't help but feel this whole situation is exacerbated by the removal of recycling bins located specifically for this purpose.**

One of the reasons stated for the removal of the bins was 'fly tipping' – a Vale Council euphemism for the inability to manage the facility, and abject false economy.

The only possible abuse of the bins located in the car park behind a Cowbridge town hall appears to have been local businesses not compressing cartons, thereby taking up too much space, resulting in overspill.

There was mention, in the article, of making use of the council amenity site in Llandow.

The access road to that site is an absolute disgrace, with craters to negotiate more like a bomb strewn road in any war torn area.

Amenity sites on the continent put this whole set-up to shame.

The removal of recycling bins will almost certainly result in more fly tipping, on a much larger scale.

Hugh Field, Cowbridge.

'Restoring Victorian kitchen garden'

THE Cowbridge Gardening Club will be meeting today (Thursday, February 26) at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge town hall.

The speaker will be Mike Thurlow the theme of 'Restoring a Victorian kitchen garden'.

New members and visitors are welcome to attend.

British Legion reaches out to the local villages

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge and District branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) will be held on March 10, upstairs in the Duke of Wellington public house, Cowbridge, at 7.30pm.

It is probably not too well known, that in addition to the immediate areas of Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin, the area covered by this branch also includes the following villages: Ystradowen, Trerhyngyll, Penylan, Llansannor, Penllyne, Langan, St Mary Hill, Llandow, Llysworney, St Mary Church, Llandough, St Hilary, Welsh St Donats, Bonvilston and Maendy, Prisk and Colwinston.

The aim of the RBL as a charity is to raise funds through the Poppy Appeal and other means to support not only ex-servicemen and women who have received long-term injuries, but also those who, through illness or through no fault of their own, may require some form of assistance; this also includes members of their immediate families.

The branch now has a welfare representative, Colonel (Retd) Peter Davies, who can be contacted on 01446 775211, or by email at: *daviesp99@hotmail.com* who will be able to offer help and advice.

Anyone from the ex-service community, or who may not have served in the Armed Forces but wishes to support the aims of the RBL, is welcome to attend the meeting with the possible view of joining the branch.

For further details, telephone 01446 774520, or email davecptmorris@tiscali.co.uk.

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CHOPSTICKS AND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR – LOCAL YOUNGSTERS' DAY OUT

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK.
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.

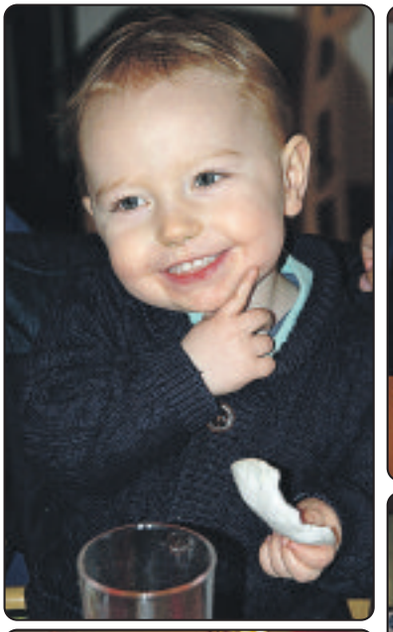
THE children at Fun Foundations had a special treat to celebrate Chinese New Year - lunch at the River View Restaurant in Cowbridge!

They have been learning how New Year is celebrated in China and found out about their different customs and traditions, so to enhance their learning a special trip was arranged for the children to celebrate and enjoy lunch.

They received a really warm welcome from the management and staff and sat down to a lovely meal of fried rice, spicy noodles and other Chinese delicacies.

They tried their very best to use their chopsticks and thoroughly enjoyed themselves - they had a great time and were given fortune cookies to take home - a fantastic experience and we would like to thank the management and staff for making their lunch one to remember.

MH



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Woman jailed after taking drugs into the Cardiff Prison

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A WOMAN who took drugs into Cardiff Prison when she visited her boyfriend, has been jailed for eight months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Tracey Hales (33) claimed the drugs had been for personal use.

Recorder Ian Murphy QC told Hales, who had been living at Dyfan Road, Barry, that custody in such a case was inevitable.

She pleaded guilty to two charges of taking prohibited items into the prison.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that on July 24 last year, officers saw Hales in the visiting hall and something from her dropped to the floor.

She picked it up and Hales was apprehended and taken to a search area.

Officers discovered that she had a Class C drug on her and 3.5 grammes of cannabis resin.

Hales told them she knew she was prohibited from taking such items into the prison.

She said she had come off heroin and because it was hard, the drugs were for personal use and to help make her sleep.

The court heard that Hales had a conviction for possessing heroin with intent to supply.

Her counsel, Stephen Thomas, said she had been in custody since October 22, and he added: "Clearly, she has significant drug problems. However, she is currently drugs-free."

The Recorder told her: "You pleaded guilty to serious offences, committed when you were visiting your boyfriend in Cardiff Prison.

"You have a record of illicit drugs use and you must have known that what you were doing was serious."

He said that in the past, she had received "ample warning shots".

He said there had also been a record on non-compliance with court orders.

He directed that the drugs be destroyed, and Hales was told she would have to pay a £100 victim surcharge.

COUNCILLOR BOOBS WITH A RE-TWEET!

THE perils of new media were illustrated when a Barry councillor, Richard Bertin, was censured by the Vale Council for re-tweeting an inappropriate image.

In an age when the internet is awash with extreme imagery, the picture in question was relatively tame and one depicting 'office highjinks' or 'boorish behaviour', depending on one's point of view.

The image was taken from behind a young woman who was bending over a photocopier and appeared to be pulling her top up.

Coun Bertin made a swift apology, saying: "I am deeply sorry for retweeting the picture in error, and I will make doubly sure that it doesn't happen again.

"I will no longer be posting any pictures whatsoever on my social media accounts, and deeply regret making the mistake of retweeting the picture in error."

A Vale Council statement was issued which read: "Richard Bertin, independent member for the Court ward, has been censured, following a stage-3 hearing, which took place before an independent member of the standards committee on February 10.

"Low level allegations of breaches of the members' code of conduct are dealt with in accordance with the local dispute resolution procedure.

"In this instance, there was found to be a basis to the complaint and Coun Bertin has been censured."

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Llanfair pupils triumph in quiz

COWBRIDGE Library ran a children's quiz for National Libraries Day and two pupils from Llanfair School swept the board!

Librarian Melanie Weeks said: "The quiz was all about the library. Did you know, for example, that you can take out 10 books from the library at any one time?"

Lowri Priest and James Freeman are pictured in the children's library with their book tokens.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is ***NANCY DAVIDGE***
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Saint's day

SARON Chapel, Treoes, will celebrate St David's Day with a Welsh-themed service.

Treoes resident Lorraine West will introduce the hymns and there will be an invitation for the reading of poems from the children in Welsh and English. A little bird has whispered that Welsh cakes will be on the menu!

Strange goings-on!

EARLY on Sunday, morning (February 22), I was awakened from my slumber at about 4.15am.

On looking through my bedroom window towards Llangan school, I was intrigued to see activity around a parked car.

Perhaps it was all quite innocent, but my curiosity was aroused nevertheless by the night owls!

Language furore

I FEEL I must comment on the letter to The GEM from Mr Peter Reed, of Barry, expressing hatred of the Welsh language.

One wonders why he chooses to live in Wales if he feels so strongly about it. After all, if he has children, they will be taught Welsh in school.

NICLAS (15) HELPS TO RECRUIT CHILDREN'S NEW COMMISSIONER!

RIGHT: Niclas Want with Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore.

NICLAS WANT, a member of the Vale of Glamorgan youth cabinet and a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, was recently involved in the recruitment and selection process of the new Children's Commissioner for Wales, Professor Sally Donaldson.

Niclas, aged 15, was one of five young people from across Wales who took part in the confidential process of shortlisting and interviewing potential candidates for the new role.

He was also elected co-chair of the young person's panel, and joined the adult panel that was made up of professionals and officials from the National Assembly for Wales.

Professor Sally Holland was announced as the new Children's Commissioner for Wales on January 28.

Niclas said: "I'm very proud to have been involved in this process, and to have really contributed to something with such a high profile was a fantastic experience.

It's encouraging to know that if you're willing to get involved in these sorts of things, there are some great opportunities available."

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, March 1 at 2pm Taith y Cennin Pdr/St David's Day Daffodils meet at St Brides Major at the Farmer's Arms car park.

Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi meet at Coffee Cove Cafe on Barry Island on Tuesday March 3, at 10am. On Wednesday, March 4 the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at 10.30am at the Visitor Centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth.

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TRACTOR BOYS OF ABERTHIN 'ON THE RUN AGAIN' FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin are getting well known in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county borough for their charity tractor runs on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday, February 22, they were raising funds for the Air Ambulance.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' images, despite the miserable weather, spirits were high.

This time they met at JG Plants in Brackla and headed for Llanharry and Coity before making the return run back to Bridgend.

THE WI MEMBERS TAKE TO THE DARTBOARD!

THE February meeting of Southerndown WI had to be cancelled at short notice, unfortunately. The following week, however, almost half of the membership were able to attend a coffee afternoon hosted by the committee.

Members were reminded about the afternoon tea in Llanerch Vineyard on Wednesday, March 18 and the trip to Denman College on Tuesday, May 5. Please give your name to any committee member as soon as possible if you would like to attend either event.

Southerndown WI entered a team in the Glamorgan Federation darts competition. Although it was a new activity for some members and the team had only been practising for a few weeks, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, winning two of their matches.

In one of the matches, they were delighted to beat former title holders and in the other match, Jackie scored 48, to finish the match with a double 16! Team members thank Mark Lewis, landlord of the Fox and Hounds in St Brides Major, for opening the pub to allow us to practice and for lending sets of darts to the members.

The walking group held an enjoyable walk from Swansea to Mumbles – the weather was cold, but dry enough to sit outside for lunch, on arriving in Mumbles.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 7.15pm in the Church Hall in St Brides Major – all welcome. The coffee morning is being held in Jane's house on March 5 at 10.30am. **PM**

Grotto and pamper parties boost charity

MEL WEBB, of Karma Beauty, Cowbridge, held a charity event in aid of research into the bone disorder in children, Perthes disease.

"We made a *Frozen* grotto and held *Frozen* pamper parties and raised over £120 for the charity. The guest of honour was Kiana McKirdy," Mel reported.

Opposition to development

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

There were calls for Section 106 money to be allocated for creating extra parking – were the development to go ahead. Councillors are concerned that all the Section 106 cash would be swallowed up by expenses relating to the new school.

On the subject of the school, councillors were also concerned that no firm date had been set for the construction of the building, and that the Vale Council had not confirmed that funding was in place for it.

Councillors accepted the need for more affordable hoiusing, but argued that the scale of provision at darren farm was too great.

The councillors also agreed with the residents' groups who are arguing that the application is premature, and that it should be held back until after the Vale Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) had been prepared and examined by a welsh Government inspector.

The town council's reasons for objection can be read in full at: ***http://www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/media/2071/planning-9-february-2015.pdf***

Lest We forget – 'The Arsenal' at Bridgend

Are YOU in the picture?

The workforce at 'The Arsenal' waiting for their transport home.

THE Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend – affectionately known as 'The Arsenal' – was situated on the site now occupied by the Bridgend Trading Estate.

Unless you know where to look for it, there is very little evidence left now to show that 'The Arsenal' ever existed.

The photographs were taken on October 20, 1943, at the bus terminal outside the present South Wales Police Headquarters Building. The buses, dream photographs for transport buffs, show Western Welsh AEC and Leyland half-cabs, as well AEC Grey Utility Double Deckers. They were there to transport workers back and forth between their homes or hostels and 'The Arsenal'.

Look out for more snippets of information and photographs of 'The Arsenal' in next week's GEM.

Please note that in last week's GEM, the incorrect email was given – there is an 'e' between the 'keith' and 'morgan' in *keithemorgan@talktalk.net* **. If anyone responded last week, please try again using the correct email.**

Are you in any of the pictures? If so, contact The GEM or Keith E Morgan, photo-journalist, on 01656 788150; e-mail keithemorgan@talktalk.net

LOCAL HERO IDENTIFIED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr Mike Duggan, of the Old Boys Association has at last completed the puzzle. Using hitherto unseen records in Oxford University, he has finally proved that Sylvester had attended the Grammar School and that his family had lived in Woodstock House in Westgate, Cowbridge.

Dr Duggan will be giving a talk on the 'Cowbridge VC' at the Old Boys Association meeting on May 22 at 2.30pm in the Athletic Club, Cowbridge.

The meeting is open to any former pupil of the Grammar School and their guests (both male and female). A finger buffet will be available and anyone wanting to come should contact Neil Workman on 07792 256334.

Following the talk the full report of the discovery of Cowbridge's VC will be available on www.cowbridge400.org.

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Christmas concert helps Amelia Trust

DEACON Lorraine Brown, director of the Amelia Trust Farm, was presented with a cheque for £700 by Gareth Roberts, chairman of Barry Male Voice Choir (BMVC).

The cheque is for work at the Amelia Trust and the money was raised at BMVC's annual Christmas charity concert at St Mary's Church, Barry on December 6.

Meanwhile, the choir looks forward to the Mayor of Barry's three choirs charity concert in St Mary's Church on Friday, February 27 at 7pm. Tickets are £5 from the Council Offices, Gladstone Road.

The choir numbers will be augmented by the new members attracted by the recent recruitment campaign, helped by the generosity of Barry Town council. New members are still welcome on Monday or Thursday, 7.30pm in Trinity Hall. See the choir website for information.

A further concert by the choir with its new members will take place in Trinity Hall, Trinity Street, Barry on Thursday, March 19 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 from choir members or telephone 01446 402398.

Deacon Lorraine Brown with Gareth Roberts.

MAYOR'S CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of Barry Ladies' Choir on Tuesday, March 3 from 10.30am – 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.

STROLLERS ENJOY A SUNNY WALK AROUND COSMESTON!

Photo by Mike Edwards.

THE Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers were out and about on Wednesday, February 18 for the latest of the regular fortnightly walks as listed in the Valeways walk programme.

Barbara Green, volunteer walk leader with Valeways, was joined by 14 walkers on a bright sunny morning. A circular route through this beautiful country park included woodlands, open grasslands and lakes to cater for walkers with mixed ability. Everyone is encouraged to walk at their own pace, with regular stops for all to re-group.

The lakes were sparkling and alive with swans, ducks, geese and many other water fowl. The walk lasted for approximately one hour and the majority of the walkers then enjoyed a welcome cuppa in the Lakeside cafe.

The next Cosmeston Coffee Shop Stroll will be on March 4 at 10.30am, meeting at the Cosmeston visitor centre; all are welcome.

RNLI centre comes to Barry Island

A NEW visitor centre due to open on Barry Island this Easter, will be the first of its type in Wales and only the second in the UK.

The centre will be based at the heart of Barry Island resort in the former Tourist Information Centre.

Occupying the whole of the ground floor, the centre will boast an interactive display area, an education suite for visiting schools and youth groups and an RNLI shop.

This latest RNLI commitment to Barry Island will complement the lifeboat station that has saved lives off the town's coast since 1901 and the lifeguard presence on Whitmore Bay that has seen the highest number of incidents in Wales over the last two years.

The visitor centre will provide a focus for the charity's work and the volunteers and staff of the charity look forward to unveiling it to the local community and visitors to the town in the coming months.

The new centre brings exciting new volunteer opportunities. There are a variety of positions available which means that individuals can be matched with the roles that are right for them

A spokesperson for the RNLI said: "Volunteers can expect the training and support they need to flourish in their roles.

"The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea and all volunteers play a part in rescuing 22 lives a day and bringing loved ones home safe to their families.

"We are holding an open day at the new visitor centre on Barry Island (the former Tourist Information Office) on March 17 from 10am until 6pm. Why not come along and find out how you can be a part of that lifesaving work?'

Alternatively, contact Julie Sandby on 07795 306 994 or julie_sandby@rnli.org.uk

Advice for the elderly

ARE you a homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale? Are you elderly, disabled and need advice and support on repairs or home improvements?

Care and Repair in the Vale help older homeowners and private tenants adapt and maintain their homes, can give advice on grants available and also give information on reputable companies to use.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will hold an information session on Tuesday, March 3, 10am to 12 noon. No appointment is needed, just come along to the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. For further information, contact 01446 732385.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123(2A)

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF FACILITATING A NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER YSGOL MAES DYFAN SCHOOL SITE

Land at Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Barry.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council intends to dispose of a strip of land which forms part of the site of the former Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Barry. This narrow strip of land is part of the school site the Council is disposing for a residential development (subject to planning permission). The narrow strip comprises a grass bank admeasuring approximately 402 m2 and is located between an existing fence that secured the former school and the adjoining parks land.

The adjoining park land will remain as public open space.

A plan indicating the location of the land can be inspected at the reception desk of the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to: The Director of Resources, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU by no later than 19th March 2015.

Dated this 26th day of February 2015.

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MP'S CALL TO REMEDY PITCH PROBLEMS

LAST Saturday the vast majority of junior and senior football fixtures were called off across the Vale, despite just one day of rain, albeit heavy.

This is unfortunately a common conversation I have with parents during the winter months and it must be addressed.

Getting young children playing sport across the Vale is a real passion of mine. It teaches young children discipline, the benefits of teamwork, and youthful energy is put to good use.

The GEM has reported my interest in this area for a number of years about whether the facilities available match the ambition of young players.

The largest town in Wales needs new next generation facilities now. I am calling again for funding to be used to provide new artificial surfaces that can be used by players in the town, and facilities that children and parents that travel in from around the Vale for fixtures can also use.

To echo the ethos of team sport, I feel that teamwork is the answer to helping the next generation of youngsters fulfil their potential.

The committed volunteers, clubs and local authority should work together to ensure that access is maximised for all children when new facilities are built in Barry.

Funding is available for a number of locations that could be identified and built quickly in Barry.

There are a number of excellent examples of new first class artificial pitches in Wales that have transformed access to youth football – which in turn transforms the prospects of the next generation of player.

ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

By investing in pitches across the Vale, I am hopeful that the growth in youth football can continue at a galloping pace – and who knows – the next Gareth Bale could hail from the Vale.

New artificial pitches in Barry will mean fewer postponements that results in fixtures getting fulfilled. Players get continual access to coaching skills, rather than lengthy stop start periods during even the mildest of winters like this one.

All the parents and coaches I speak to appreciate the undoubted challenge it is to try and maintain pitches in Barry, it is a thankless task.

What better way to encourage young boys and girls into sport than by building 3G or 4G pitches in Barry that are available for use day and night for the whole community?

Without the facilities to match the ambition, these youngsters and talented coaches are unable to make the most of their ability. The principal town in the Vale needs new artificial pitches now.

Neighbours in first meeting of the new year

FRIENDS and Neighbours' first meeting of 2015 got off to a flying start with an excellent turnout at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall, Barry, for the monthly meetings on a Wednesday afternoon.

New members were made welcome and it was great to see a few men join the group. The busy programme was discussed including a forthcoming trip to Abergavenny in April, and members delighted in putting their names down as many of them do not go out of Barry.

They then enjoyed taking part in a Valentine quiz (testing the brain matter) and also tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

The members are looking forward to the March meeting, when they will be having their Easter party. Contact Gay Fifield 01446 400044 for further information.

GF

Readers flock to take up the 'Six Book Challenge'

MORE than 40 readers have signed up for the Six Book Challenge in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

A library spokeswoman explained: "It is a national reading challenge aimed at those over 16 who, for whatever reason, have got out of the habit of reading, or who need a little extra help and encouragement to pick up a book and get into the habit.

"The theme this year is 'Read Anything. Read Anywhere'. You can really read anything you like: newspapers, poems, plays, websites, books and more. Once you sign up you are given a reading diary to record your thoughts on the six things you read.

"Once you've completed the challenge, you can enter a national prize draw. Last year, prizes included Kobo eReaders and a trip to London," she said.

"In the Vale we like to extend the challenge period over the summer holidays, to run concurrently with the children's summer reading challenge, so anyone who misses out on the national award could win a prize in the local draw.

Seventeen-year-old Courtney Simpson, a pupil at Ysgol y Deri in Penarth, received her prize of a bright pink Hudl.2 from Andy Griffiths, libraries outreach officer. Courtney has also signed up to participate in this year's challenge.

Two other readers successful in last year's challenge, but unable to attend the presentation were Ellis Thompson-Criddle and Janet Edgar, who have both had their £20 gift vouchers posted to them.

If any schools, clubs or workplaces would like to take place in this year's Six Book Challenge, contact Andy at Barry Library on 01446 725381. The national draw takes place at the end of June, the local one in October.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Fibromyalgia support group

DO you suffer from Fibromyalgia, or have you recently been diagnosed with this condition? Are you a carer looking after a loved one or relative?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a health topic session on Thursday, March 5, from 10am to 12 midday at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

A health care professional who specialises in Fibromyalgia will be available to chat to you on any issue.

No appointment is needed. Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.

LOTTERY HANDS OUT £1.5m TO LOCAL PROJECTS

NEW figures reveal that over £1.5million of National Lottery funding was handed to projects in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan in the last year.

Across the region, 153 grants were awarded in 2014. These benefited local arts, sports and heritage projects, alongside community groups helping those most in need. They were awarded to a wide range of projects, including:

Abercerdin Primary School in Bridgend received £4,960 to establish a community library.

EyePAT Community Interest Company in Llantwit Major received £4,995 to fund a series of anti-bullying workshops in schools across South Wales.

St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major received £65,000 towards essential repairs and improvements.

Arthur Davis Court Residents Association in Barry received £2,220 to fund a greenhouse and shelving, benches, fencing, compost, plants and timber for planters.

Sker & Pink Bay Surf Life Saving Club received £5,000 to purchase a trailer and new surf lifesaving equipment.

Pyle and Kenfig Community First Responders received £5,000 to purchase defibrillators to support their expanding coverage within Cornelly, Pyle, Kenfig and Cefn Cribbwr.

If you wish to nominate your favourite project, or enter your own project in this year's National Lottery Awards, visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk or call 0207 293 3599 to find out more. Entries must be received by midnight, March 25.

ABOVE: WWH procurement manager Peter Jenkins, senior admin Ooficer, Di Barnes and admin assistant, Leah Jenkins.

Company pledges support for Cancer Research Wales

A LEADING Welsh housing association has announced that Cancer Research Wales is to become its official charity partner for the next two years.

Wales & West Housing (WWH) will take part in various fundraising activities to support the charity's work, over the coming months.

Planned activities include a sponsored bike ride leaving WWH's Flint office in North Wales to their Cardiff office in Tremorfa, staff participation in the charity's annual Pink and Blue Walk and 'dress down Fridays'.

WWH has raised a total of £75,000 for three major charities over the past six years, including Alzheimer's Society, Help for Heroes and Stroke Association Wales.

FREE TAX ADVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) will offer free professional tax advice to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major on March 2, from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Older People's Commissioner praises Extra Care scheme

HAFOD Care Association welcomed Sarah Rochira, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to their new Extra Care scheme – Golau Caredig in the Vale recently.

Located in the centre of Barry, the £7.2m development provides affordable independent living accommodation for older people in the form of 42 purpose-built one and two-bedroom flats. Individual care and support is provided for the tenants via an in-house domiciliary care and tenant support service.

The commissioner chatted with residents and was joined on a tour of the building by senior officers of the Vale Council, Coun Stuart Egan, Vale of Glamorgan Deputy Leader, and colleagues from Reach who provide the domiciliary care .

Scheme manager, Miles Utting, from Hafod Care said: "We are very proud of our new facility and are already seeing the huge difference that living here is making to our tenants lives. We want Golau Caredig to be very much part of the local community and were very pleased to be able to showcase the scheme to our visitors".

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira said: "It was wonderful to visit the Golau Caredig extra care facility and meet with the tenants.

"The independent living accommodation in Barry has a restaurant, hairdressers, launderette and several communal areas, and provides support that allows the residents to stay healthy, active and independent.

"As well as giving older people the opportunity to make new friends as part of this new community, it also allows them to go shopping, attend appointments and meet existing friends and family in nearby Barry town centre, reducing the risks of them becoming lonely and isolated.

"Many of the residents have now been living at the site for over five months, and it was great to chat with them about how they have settled in and the many benefits of living in such a great environment."

Coun Stuart Egan, cabinet member for adult services, said: "Golau Caredig provides high quality accommodation where residents can live safely with flexible levels of support. The iconic building provides a standard of living for older people that was previously lacking in Barry and the response from both its residents and the wider community has justly been hugely positive."

The scheme has recently been shortlisted for a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors 2015 awards. These showcase the achievements of the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment. The winners will be announced in Cardiff on May 14.

Hafod Care welcomed Sarah Rochira and colleagues from the Vale Council and Reach.

PACT meetings

DYFAN PACT at the Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry on Sunday, March 1 at 7.30pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry on Monday, March 2 at 7pm.

COURT PACT at Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6pm.

DEAF PACT at Station 20, Barry Fire Station, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Penarth and the Vale

PLYMOUTH PACT at Byrd Crescent Community Centre on Thursday, March 5 at 5pm.

SULLY PACT at the Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue, Sully on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT at the Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough on Monday, March 9 at 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm.

Wartime civilians' stories sought

LAST year, we remembered the start of the First World War and this year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Those who lived through those momentous years are now nearing the end of their lives, and before it is too late I would like to try to capture their memories in a book.

A few months ago, you were kind enough to publish my letter asking for anyone who lived through the war to contact me, and I am pleased to say the about 20 people did so. Some had served in the armed forces, others were children at the time. Their stories were fascinating, and I am deeply grateful to them for responding.

However, in order to get a full picture of the war, years I would love to hear from the civilians who made such a vital contribution: the women who went to work in the factories or on the farms to replace the men who had been called up, the air raid wardens, the firefighters, the 'Bevin Boys' drafted into the mines. They, too, have a story to tell.

It may be that a relative who lived through the war has now passed away, but wrote their memories in a book or diary for the benefit of their grandchildren. If anyone has such an account, and would be willing to share it with me, or if they have a story of their own to tell, please get in touch.

My contact numbers are 01656 858812 or 07761 498284, and my email address is malcolmcowper@gmail.com.

Malcolm Cowper.

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FENSA Network VEKA

Paris 2 Penybont cycle ride is in honour of Hollie

NPT Homes staff will join a group of eight people cycling from Paris to Bridgend in memory of Hollie Clark – and to help raise over £20,000 for the Anthony Nolan charity.

Hollie inspired the #pantsonyourhead campaign which managed to increase bone marrow donor registrations by 2580 per cent in the UK during the summer of 2014.

Hollie was born in Bridgend, which will be the finish line of the 'Paris2Penybont' challenge.

The cycle challenge brings together NPT Homes staff and a group of others, some of whom have never met. Together they have been inspired to get on their bikes for a great cause.

The ride will start at the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Monday, July 13. The team will then cycle 500 miles over six days to Bridgend in South Wales.

Two other NPT Homes employees will join the team to form the support crew who will follow the riders to ensure their safety and to offer kind words of encouragement.

NPT Homes' head of investment and regeneration and 'Paris2Penybont' cyclist, Andrew Carey, said: "Anthony Nolan is an amazing charity that does fantastic things for those with blood cancer and finding a match for those who need it. NPT Homes supported the Help Hollie campaign last year and has since voted Anthony Nolan as its 2015 chosen charity.

"I have experienced the efforts of their great work when Hollie, my second cousin, needed their support in finding a donor. Myself and the other cyclists are taking part in this challenge with the aim of raising £20,000 to say thank you to Anthony Nolan for all their help and to help them continue the amazing work they do."

Will Connolly, Head of Corporate Partnerships and Special Events at Anthony Nolan said: "On average, two thirds of UK patients who need a bone marrow transplant won't find a matching donor in their families, so they turn to us to find them an unrelated donor. It costs around £100 to recruit each potential donor to the bone marrow register and the money the team raise will help us to add more potential lifesavers to our register."

To join the Anthony Nolan register, visit www.anthonynolan.org. To join the cycling team or to sponsor them on their challenge, visit www.justgiving.com/Paris2Penybont/.

Tidy help on the airwaves!

HOSPITAL Radio Glamorgan (RG) volunteer, Richard Manning, has secured funding for one of RG's shows from Keep Wales Tidy.

Catherine Moulogo from Keep Wales Tidy said: "We are delighted to sponsor the Monday Night Richard Manning Show. As Richard volunteers weekly for us and also volunteers for Hospital Radio Glamorgan, it is a fantastic way for both charities to support each other."

Richard has been a volunteer at RG for almost four years and hosts a two-hour music show on Monday evenings.

Richard said: "Keep Wales Tidy can be perceived as the litter police but tackling litter is only part of their work. They also target the other things that spoil our environment like graffiti, fly-tipping, vandalism, pollution – the anti-social issues that plague communities across Wales.

"As a volunteer there I can see that Keep Wales Tidy is about making Wales a better place for us all to live in. I hope to be able to provide opportunities within my weekly radio show that will help spread the message about the important work Keep Wales Tidy do."

RICHARD MANNING.

Justin's packing for his travels again in memory of his best friend Gareth

BRIDGEND rugby player Justin Hostettler-Davies is off on another fundraising adventure: his plan is to climb the UK and Eire's highest peaks in three days.

Justin is a committed fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, after witnessing the death from the disease of his best friend, Gareth.

In 2013, Justin set out from Llandudno to walk non-stop all 700 miles of the newly-opened Wales Coastal Path. Sunburn, blisters, and a visit to A&E later, he proudly strode onto Porthcawl beach to a welcome home from 1970s stars JPR Williams and Phil Bennett.

In 2014, Justin now supported by a team of like-minded friends set out on the iconic Land's End to John O'Groats cycle. Justin admitted that he hated cycling before he started and would cheerfully never cycle again when he finished!

In two years, Justin has raised over £30,000 for MND Association and now in August he is planning his biggest challenge to date. The five highest peaks in UK and Eire are a torturing test of endurance and grit. To cap it all, on his way home, the mountain conquering hero is planning a quick up-and-down at south Wales' highest peak Pen y Fan, a mere 886 metres!

Justin's fundraising supports the South Wales Care Network, a joint project between the MND Association and NHS Wales, providing care and advice to people living with MND in South Wales.

Anyone wanting to support Justin's Climb4MND, should visit his Justgiving page at: https://www.justgiving.com/climb4MND/.

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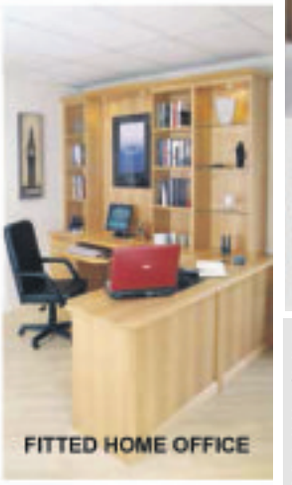

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Search for the 'lost' Vale playing fields

A NATIONWIDE campaign called #FieldFinders is asking the public to identify over 900 'lost' playing fields, originally protected as public green spaces by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's charitable trust 90 years ago.

"We believe that 22 of these are in the Vale of Glamorgan, but we don't know the exact location, or if they even still exist!" a spokesperson said.

"The sites are 'lost' because their exact locations were never centrally recorded, but they are in fact protected from urban development under the original terms of the Carnegie grants.

"With green spaces at a premium and many being lost to urban redevelopment, the #FieldFinders campaign aims to protect some 3,000 football pitches, tennis courts, playgrounds and other recreational green spaces with better legal protection.

"But we need the public's help. #FieldFinders is hoping the public can help to locate the Carnegie playing fields, preserving the legacy of the original grants and protecting the spaces for future generations.

"Members of a specialist team are in place to cross reference submissions with any surviving documentation and begin the process of keeping a site safe for generations to come."

The #FieldFinders campaign is targeted at local communities across the UK with the aim of local residents finding Carnegie playing fields in their area.

#Field Finders will have until August 31 to report back via a dedicated web portal www.fieldsintrust.org/Carnegie.aspx about their Carnegie playing field. Members of the specialist Fields in Trust team will then cross reference it with any surviving documentation and begin the process of improving legal protection of the site to keep it safe for generations to come.

Investigative 'Field Finders' are also being encouraged to share images of the sites using their social media profiles, specifically Twitter and Instagram.

Douglas White, head of Advocacy at Carnegie UK Trust, said: "We want to find as many of these fields as possible and ensure that they remain legally protected for the local community."

VELINDRE EASTER CHICKS APPEAL!

FOR 14 years, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District, assisted by family and friends, have donated knitted chicks to the Velindre Easter Chicks Appeal.

Volunteers fill the knitted chicks with chocolate eggs and these are sold for £1 each, with about 90 per cent of the chicks being sold in schools.

The children love them and like to collect them each year. The appeals officer at Velindre Hospital, Julie Smith, started the 'Chick Knit' 18 years ago, when her aim was to reach £1million!

Having reached her target, she is now aiming for her second million, as there is no let up in the demand for the chicks. Each year the club donates approximately 1,000 and, when delivering them this year, club president Jeni Gower-Jones, together with club appeal co-ordinatior, Maywin Thomas, were pleased to meet some of the volunteers who fill and pack the chicks ready for distribution.

President Jeni also handed a cheque for £82.50 to Julie in respect of knitted items sold by members.

The Velindre Appeal is always looking for new knitters, and if anyone would like to be involved please telephone Julie Smith on (029) 2031 6211.

The photo shows Maywin second from left, president Jeni, far right, together with Julie and the volunteers.

To find out more about who we are and what we do visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

CJD

As Foodbank numbers rise... Lions hand over donation

AS the Vale Foodbank passes the milestone of providing free emergency food parcels to almost 10,000 local people in crisis, it was visited by John Wordley, president of Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions who handed over a cheque for £500.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Foodbank, Susan Lloyd Selby said: "The Lions is a wonderful organisation, consisting of volunteers who raise money and do whatever they can to help their local community.

"Here in the Vale they support a huge number of local causes, including diabetic screening, the Big Wrap and the British Legion.

"As the number of people seeking help from the foodbank continues to rise, we are incredibly grateful to the Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions for their support."

Speaking on behalf of the Lions, John Wordley praised the foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved: "The Lions support humanitarian causes across the world, from our 'Sight First' programme, which is aiming to prevent and cure blindness in the Third World, to supporting young people from the Vale to work with disadvantaged children in Venezuela and India, but we also recognise and respond to needs on our own doorstep.

"We are delighted to be able to support the Vale Foodbank and hope this donation will enable them to continue to ensure no-one need go hungry in the Vale."

For more information about the work of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, call 0845 833 6763 or mail: secretary@lmandclions.org.uk; web: www.lmandclions.org.uk ; Facebook: www.facebook.com/lmandclions; Twitter:@lmandclions.

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THE NFU LADIES IN CELEBRATION MOOD

THE Vale NFU Ladies held their annual dinner, when all the stops were pulled out at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

The place was buzzing and good raffle prizes were won.

NFU member Mrs Ray Evans gave a vote of thanks to the committee for its hard work throughout a successful year.

February's meeting took place in the Penllyn Village Hall, and a talk was given by Tyrone Peach on 'Fraud awareness with credit cards'.

Chris James gave a vote of thanks and everyone felt very enlightened by the talk.

February is also the time for the annual general meeting and at this meeting it is always the chairperson's privilege to select the charity of her choice.

Ann Rees chose Kidney Research and £500 was sent.

The next meeting is on March 17 at the Penllyn Village Hall at 7.30pm, with a talk by Pam Miles on carnival glass. New members always welcome.

JS

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D867.

● **£2,000:** 539773.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £5,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 954759, 465539, 425213, 220112, 288008, 817482, 479737, 374718, 380497, 941766, 396127, 181850, 391307, 348858, 723968, 610855, 824736, 833079, 1244, 1895.

● **£5:** 611283, 673382, 545606, 220736, 145262, 575628, 736573, 768741, 728858, 817895, 501115, 127973, 757673, 219744, 466468, 590958, 227706, 146334, 885858, 299742, 525521, 232556, 498952, 327176, 914956, 366922, 939212, 615221, 517054, 665189, 623488, 765296, 202231, 131525, 375743, 385147, 540827, 697438, 468338, 602885, 908235, 328383, 261236, 937918, 707803, 893236, 126242, 719442, 247902, 791681, 914482, 267546, 508967, 841274, 852178, 601679, 662712, 1507, 1393, 1300.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

History society

RHOOSE and District History Society is holding its monthly meeting this Friday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

Harold Williams will talk on 'Memories of a Vale Gamekeeper'. Admission at the door £1; children under 16 50p.

Bore Coffi

CYNHELIR Bore Coffi gan Merched y Wawr, Y Bontfaen, Dydd Sadwrn, 28ain Chwefror, yn y Neuadd Lai, Y Bontfaen o 10.30 i 12.00. Tocynnau wrth y drws am £2.50 i gynnwys paned a phicen/dewis di-luten.

Bydd raffl a stondinau a'r elw yn mynd i Bobath a Ty Hapus. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held by Cowbridge branch of Merched y Wawr this Saturday, February, 28. in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge from 10.30am to 12pm. T

Tickets are £2.50 and can be purchased at the door. Entry includes tea/coffee and a Welsh cake or gluten free choice.

There will be stalls and a raffle. Profit goes to Bobath and Ty Hapus.

Everyone welcome!

Club celebrates

BARRY Athletic Cricket Club launches its 125th anniversary celebrations with a quiz/social night on Saturday, February 28 at The West End Club at 7.30pm; £2.50 per person.

Arthritis UK coffee morning

THERE will be a St David's Day coffee morning in support of Arthritis UK on Saturday, February 28, in St Helen's Parish Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon; entry £1.50 includes tea or coffee and Welsh cake.

There will be stalls, cake, cards, jewellery, fancy goods and a raffle. All proceeds for Arthritis Research UK.

Community Centre's homeless event

THERE is free food for the homeless on March 1 from 11am-2pm at Castleland Community Centre. Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Soup and a sandwich and papers available to read. It is another initiative of the Drop-In Centre Development Trust.

Fair date

TREASURE Trove Fairs are holding an A&C Fair on St David's Day, March 1 (from 10am – 4pm) at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH; free parking.

The hotel is putting on a special St David's Day lunch – contact 02920 512349; *www.info@treasuretrovefairswales.com.*

March on, girls!

VALE sports clubs are hosting free tasters and open days throughout March, to encourage women and girls of all ages to be more active, as part of a 'March on, Girls' scheme.

Women of all ages can sample rowing, tennis, football and a range of other activities.

Details at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/marchongirls.

Mediumship

THE Barry National Spiritualist church and centre will hold an evening of mediumship with Bernie Scott on March 2 at 7pm; pay at the door £4; Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EF.

Tax advice

TAXHELP for Older People will hold a free income tax surgery for those with income tax problems at the CAB offices, Bridgend on Friday, March 13.

To book an appointment, telephone 08456 013321.

Hugh's book

FORMER 'Stranglers' frontman Hugh Cornwell will be in Penarth on March 13 to talk about his new book, *Arnold Drive*, hosted by Griffin Books on the gallery of All Saints' Church, Victoria Square at 7.30pm.

Tickets on sale now at Griffin Books £5.

Mayor's charity dinner dance

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans, will hold a 1920s-themed charity dinner dance at the Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, Wenvoe on Friday, April 17 at 7pm.

Tickets are £28 (£25 for senior citizens) and are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA.

The evening will include live entertainment, four course meal, raffle/auction and disco. Everyone welcome. All proceeds are in aid of ValePlus and The Jam Fund, nominated charities of the Mayor of Barry.

For further information, contact the Mayor's secretary on 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Rhoose bingo

RHOOSE Community Centre at Stewart Road, Rhoose is holding another bingo afternoon to raise funds for the running of the hall. Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start on Saturday, February 28. Light refreshments are served at half time.

Young Merlin

NIGHT Owl Theatre present *I Merlin*, a musical narrated by a charismatic young Merlin with six mad wizards, at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, from March 5-7.

Tickets from nightowltheatre.ticketsource.co.uk.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'It's so different in England!'

PAUL H Simpson (GEM letters) is completely correct in stating that the existing planning procedure in Wales is "not fit for purpose".

If we all lived in England, we would enjoy planning laws that are very different to Wales.

Local communities have a much stronger say and more importantly we would also have a veto on large housing developments of the type that will now destroy Colwinston. In England, communities do not have to accept top down housing targets.

The reason this absurd housing application for Colwinston went ahead is probably because our wonderful Welsh Assembly have a policy which forces 10,000 homes on the Vale, a 54 per cent increase on the average over the previous 15 years.

This is a wholly unsustainable number that the Vale planners refused to challenge. We have an LDP that drives development to rural villages and a planning system where the ability of an authority to reject an application is restricted.

These are Labour policies which the majority of residents in Colwinston and many other parts of the Vale have opposed strongly.

Ed Lewis,
(Vice chairman, Colwinston Community Council).

'What use is the Welsh language?'

IS there nothing anyone can do these days without being called racist, a bully, a victim and offensive?

I get cheesed off with these words being bandied about constantly to cover anything anyone decides to get upset about. It is pathetic.

People need to grow up, get a backbone, and accept we are all entitled to express our views and opinions. To claim that saying Cowbridge is an "oasis of Englishness" is a racist remark, is nothing short of lunacy and stupidity.

One writer states they love the Welsh language and have learnt to speak Welsh. Well, bully for you... whatever floats your boat; but most of us could not care less and are quite happy to speak English which is basically a universal language, unlike Welsh, which is only understood by a small minority of Welsh people.

So... of what use is the Welsh language anywhere else except in small areas of Wales? None... it's taught nowhere else, except Wales and mostly forgotten the day you leave school.

My name is there for all to see and I expect a backlash from some – broad shoulders, water and 'duck's back' spring to mind.

Anne Usher, Barry.

'GET JOBLESS TO CLEAN UP LITTER'

MPS are often the subject of criticism; however, I must write in praise of Alun Cairns. I wrote to him two weeks ago, regarding the litter problem in the area around Cowbridge, and specifically the section of road from Pentre Meurig to Llysworney.

Mr Cairns wrote back with a copy of his email to the Vale Council requesting action. Yesterday and today the council workmen are litter picking from Llantwit Major roundabout across Llandow through Llysworney to Pentre Meurig.

So it seems that it does pay to contact our local MP with any concerns – and thank you to the Vale Council for such prompt action.

However, isn't it a shame that at this time of austerity and cut-backs in funding for the various council departments, our rates have to be spent on a team of council workmen being paid to work the weekends cleaning up the mess from the mindless idiots who throw their litter out of their vehicles as they travel the lanes around the Vale.

Why can't they understand that every £1 spent on litter picking is one £1 less available for schooling, road repairs, medical care etc.

Visitors and tourists to this area have often asked... "*Why are the laybys and verges so filthy around here?*"

It's not a problem particular to our area, of course: it's a British problem. Travelling around other countries, there doesn't appear to be the same degree of litter in the smaller towns I've visited, but cities are a different case.

A few years ago, the Government wanted to get offenders and those out of work, able bodied people, to help the communities by litter picking. If I remember correctly, there were objections that it would be 'demeaning' to them.

Surely this idea could be looked at again, since the council is going to be short of money for a very long time to come.

Michael Tough,
Llysworney.

BALANCED LETTERS ON HOUSING ISSUE

HOW refreshing to read the letters in The GEM from David Parry (February 12), David Kennett and John Evans (February 19) making a case for additional housing in the Vale.

Their eloquent letters provide balanced evidence to support the points they make which contrasts with previous letters in The GEM, including those from Cowbridge councillors, advocating that houses should be built in Barry, instead of Cowbridge – divisive and patronising.

We need more housing and the infrastructure to go with the new homes in both the rural and urban communities, and Messrs Kennett, Evans and Parry are right to point out the need for affordable housing to be more widely available.

The division within our communities regarding house building was clearly demonstrated when the planning committee voted on planning permission for 177 dwellings at White Farm, a well-loved, historical, and green area in the heart of Barry containing a 12th century church.

All rural councillors on the committee voted to approve the plan, while others voted against. Coincidence or parochialism?

We do need to protect all of our special areas, accept the need for more homes spread more evenly across the Vale, and put pressure on planning policy that is incapable of providing the infrastructure to support that growth.

Dennis Harkus
FocusBARRY supporter

'DON'T LET OUR TOWN DIE'

WITH regard to the letters by David Parry and David Kennet concerning a proposed new development at Darren Farm outside of the existing boundary of Cowbridge town, let us be under no illusion that the aim is to maximise profits.

As such, most houses will probably not be affordable to many youngsters of the town.

The proposal is to build in the order of 380 houses, which means an extra 700-plus cars.

Our town has under 400 official car parking spaces, two council-owned and one at the Waitrose development.

This development is just outside what most would say, is an easy walking distance in to town – so it is fair to say that the majority will descend to park their cars in the already saturated car parks and side roads within the residential areas close to town.

The high street clogs up now on school runs, so just imagine it with all those extra cars. A new access road on to the bypass will not prevent this.

Other services that will be over-stretched will be doctors and dentists, and it is difficult enough to get appointments now. Just wait till we get an extra thousand (20 per cent increase) or so new residents living here.

The town services infrastructure would all need to be upgraded – sewers, gas, electric and telephones; this means digging up existing roads causing mayhem.

The way forward has to be proper, integrated planning and the creation of new infrastructure – which includes roads with direct links to trunk roads and motorways bypassing already traffic-saturated villages; also the provision of new schools, a health centre, shops, etc, would need to be considered.

This could be best served by creating a new community using the existing brownfield site at Llandow. I am not a Nimby and I have lived in the Cowbridge area for 65 years.

I also know that every town has to develop and grow. I walk everywhere within the town and I am well placed to see what is happening.

I do not wish to see our town die from over saturation of population growth, causing breakdown of our existing services.

David Davies,
Cowbridge.

THANK YOU, MR WEATHERMAN!

HAVING been a recent in-patient at Velindre, Whitchurch (with, inter alia, spinal cancer) I am grateful to TV weatherman Derek Brockway for his proposed Patagonian adventure to raise much-needed funds for this outstanding hospital (The GEM, February 12).

Velindre was/is fantastic – the staff, the wards, the whole ethos of the centre.

Thank you GEM, thank you Derek. I, too, before my illness climbed Pen-y-Fan in the 'Fan Dance': it can be treacherous and dangerous.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

Memories of a wartime 'clippie'

WITH reference to '*Are you in the picture?*' published in The GEM on February 19 which featured a 'Nantymoel' Western Welsh bus, it is quite possibly a bus on which my mother, Elizabeth-Ann (Betty) Thomas of Port Talbot (deceased) was a conductress, during the war years.

I have some remembered tales of her service routing, 39-46, duties which included Bridgend to RAF St Athan (picking up German PoW generals, on parole, from Island Farm camp) and the Bridgend Arsenal, where the day's routine included two trips to Ogmore and two to the Garw.

Her bus was parked outside the admin-block – SWP HQ – the day there was an accidental explosion in one of the manufacturing plants.

As a gruesome child, I remember pressing her for details in her account of seeing "arms, legs and bodies, spinning in the air".

I do not have any photographs of my mother from her early years, so would be particularly interested if any in Mr Keith Morgan's album contain bus crews from the period, where I may be able to identify her.

She also recalled 'breaking-up' a potential assault on one of the German generals, by some US servicemen from St Athan.

She threatened to expel them from her bus if they didn't desist! No-one defied She Who Must Be Obeyed!

David Biddles

Send us your views - *email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Properties of the Week

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!

The GEM has teamed up with local estate agents to provide you with a selection of homes in the area. When selling your home, don't forget to ask your estate agent to make sure your home is advertised within The GEM.

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Priory Estates are delighted to offer to the market this detached spacious versatile bungalow on the popular Pontypridd Road.

Briefly comprising entrance porch, spacious entrance hall with stairs rising to two attic rooms suitable to for storage/hobbies and an en suite. Ground floor offers two double bedrooms, two reception rooms, and a double glazed conservatory overlooking the larger than average mature garden, and a fitted bathroom with corner bath and separate glazed shower enclosure with electric shower. To the front - impressed concrete driveway offering generous off road parking. Detached garage with light and power. Two brick built outhouses one with WC. To the rear - Larger than average mature rear garden approximately 150ft in length.

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Tributes are paid to Lionel Rees

Former Mayor 'great citizen of the town'

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt has paid tribute to former Mayor and a great citizen of Barry, Mr Lionel Rees, who has died.

Ms Hutt said: "My heartfelt and deepest sympathies go out to Dot and her family for the loss of Lionel her beloved husband.

"Lionel was a former Mayor of Barry and long-serving town councillor dedicated to the town of Barry and his local community.

"Lionel was a Barry Town councillor for 25 years, serving Gibbonsdown and then Cadoc ward faithfully and diligently.

"His wife Dorothy (Dot) was Town Mayor in 1987 and he was her loving consort, as she was for Lionel when he was the Mayor in 1993-94.

"They were a truly remarkable couple sharing the same beliefs and values – caring for people and the community. Lionel was a wise friend and colleague and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the Sea View Labour Club, which he served faithfully."

Coun Chris Elmore said: "Lionel wasn't just a stalwart of the Vale of Glamorgan Labour Party, he was a dear friend to me, never afraid to speak his mind and give me advice on any subject he felt."

Eileen Moore of the Drop-In Centre Development Trust in the town knew him well through his commitments to the local community.

"He did a lot of charity fund-raising through the Sea View Labour Club.

"He was a supportive, kind and knowledgeable person.

"He was great company with a good sense of humour too."

How Cardiff and Swansea fought over university

THE speaker last week at the Barry Men's Forum, which meets at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, every Thursday morning at 10.15am, was Mr Gordon Roderick whose talk was entitled 'Cardiff v Swansea'.

This was a very informative talk about the setting up of a university in South Wales.

He noted the only universities in England up to the 1850s were Oxford and Cambridge, who solely dealt with the classics.

However, he also said that Scotland had four universities. It was no accident that a large number of engineers and other professional people came from Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In 1847 Manchester University – Owens College – was founded, and others were soon funded by industrialists, especially in the north of the country.

In 1880, a Royal commission was set up to investigate the possibility of a university in Wales. This resulted in arch rivalry between Cardiff and Swansea, both wishing to be the location, and bidding for the meagre grant of £4,000 offered by the government.

Gordon detailed some of the banal claims the councils made for locating in their areas, such as Swansea being near the Mumbles, a very healthy location, and Cardiff assessing the number of trains that stopped in a day at its station, and Swansea countering with the higher number of Welsh speakers in the area.

Cardiff was eventually selected, with the promise of the university being set up in the top floor of the library in the Hayes. When it did open, the university was located on the top floor of Cardiff Royal Infirmary Hospital.

New members are very welcome and on Thursday, March 5 the speaker will be Mr Mike Cheeseman, whose topic is Gravity.

PMW

Scouts get an early insight into Japan

EVERY four years, a world Scout Jamboree is held and the summer of 2015 sees the 23rd being held in Japan.

There will be a gathering of 4,000 Scouts from across the world, including one Explorer Scout, Emily Mortimore and the Group Scout Leader Martin Evans from 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout Group.

In celebration of the World Jamboree, the Cub Scout section attended a session called 'Japan in a box', where they learned about Japan and the World Jamboree. They looked at and painted Japanese symbols and Kabuki and Noh masks.

They discussed Japanese food and looked at the types of receptacle used and got to play with chopsticks, as well as dress up in kimonos.

They played a traditional game and tried their hands at origami. Many of the origami peace storks that they made will be taken to Japan by the group scout leader who will place them at a memorial, to remember those who lost their lives at Hiroshima.

Eating Japanese style.

The Cubs thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it allowed them to learn about another part of the world and also be involved in a World Jamboree event that only takes place once every four years.

Who knows, maybe one or more of the Cubs learning about Japan in 2015 will have the opportunity to be involved in a future World Jamboree, wherever that might be!

Carvery fun for Cubs

DURING half term 18 Cub Scouts from 1st Penmark with Porthkerry descended on the Toby Carvery, Rhoose (Cwm Ciddy) to take part in Chef School.

The Cubs had the opportunity, with the help of the Toby staff, to colour in Chef's paper hats and learn about different fruits and vegetables and healthy eating.

One of the Cub Scout leaders, Bagheera (Tony Field) was nominated by the pack to go behind the scenes and help to carve some meat! The morning finished with the pack tucking into a delicious carvery!

The 1st Penmark with Porthkerry would like to say thank you to the Toby Carvery and the staff involved for making the morning very enjoyable and tasty!

COLETTE RAYMOND

PROBUS CLUB HEARS OF CHARITY WORK

ON February 17, member Colin Turner gave Dinas Powys Probus Club an account of his trips to Lesotho with members of The Penarth and District Lesotho Trust, involved in charity work to the children there.

Lesotho is a land-locked country in South Africa, about half the size of Wales, with a population of around 1,600,000. The whole country is higher than Snowdon, and the main industry is farming. Colin was based near the town of 'TY' and spent his time at the local school/orphanage, where 95 per cent of the pupils were orphans due to the Aids virus.

Most families live in thatched mud brick-built one-roomed huts and Colin emphasised that it is important western culture should not be imposed on them.

Villages are full of small businesses selling vegetables, imported worn shoes, particularly 'crocs'; metal workshops, cobblers and tapestry.

Training workshops have been set up in some areas to train men in skills such as bricklaying and carpentry, skills which they can then take back to their own villages.

The vote of thanks was given by Peter Coleman.

CR

Bridgend and Vale share windfall from the Assembly

BRIDGEND, the Vale, RCT, Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil are to get an additional £434,210 to develop play opportunities for children, Lesley Griffiths AM, the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty has announced.

The local authorities will receive the funding as part of £1.5 million to improve play areas across Wales, to improve access for disabled children, provide signs to encourage street play, buy new resources such as rope swings, climbing frames and transportable equipment to ensure children from disadvantaged areas have increased opportunities to play.

Bridgend will get £66,575, the Vale £63,103. RCT £119,835, Merthyr Tydfil £28,927 and Cardiff £155,770.

Wales was the first country in the UK to pass a law to ensure children have an opportunity to play by placing a duty on local authorities to provide suitable outdoors spaces and play areas.

Joe's back!

'THE Man With 1,000 Voices' Joe Longthorne returns to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Thursday, March 12 at 7.30pm.

His repertoire includes hundreds of the world's top singers and he has won gold and platinum discs for his albums.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - @gem_news

LLANDOW TIP: 'fill in potholes'

HAVE you visited the Llandow recycling centre recently? The approach to it reminds me of the fall of Berlin.

Some of the potholes are so deep that even President Putin's tanks would be hard pressed to get through! Once there, the attendants are all safely locked up in their caravan and there is nobody to offer any help.

Instead, elderly residents clutching heavy metal totter up rickety and steep steps at grave risk to their health and safety.

I know that the roadway approaches belong to others, but all the council has to do is to put a load of hard-core over the worst of the potholes. Why are they not doing this? Why do we put up with it?

Guy Howel Jones, Llandough.

Aniston impresses, but Cake makes for an underwhelming slice of cinema...

JENNIFER ANISTON'S career may have been the most impressive of the *Friends'* cast post-show, but she's still lacked the critical acclaim – instead finding herself in broad, commercial films like *Horrible Bosses, Marley and Me* and *Just Go With It*.

However, Aniston has shown her ability in the likes of *The Good Girl* and *Office Space,* and her latest film, *Cake*, sees her take on arguably her most serious role to date. She plays Claire, who following an accident, attends a chronic pain group. When a female member of the group commits suicide, Claire becomes fascinated by her life, and finds herself growing closer to her widower, Roy (Sam Worthington)...

The first time we see Jennifer Aniston onscreen in *Cake* it is with a subtle, but noticeable, scar down the right hand side of her face, with greasy, lank hair and a puffy face; not the Aniston that front covers of magazine would recognise certainly.

While her taking on this less-than-glamorous role may smack of the old adage that to 'ugly' yourself up in the name of art leads to critical acclaim, it isn't a sop to critics – instead this is Aniston at her rawest, playing against type in a film that may feel a little shopworn, but is lit up by her incredibly powerful performance.

There's type of character that Aniston has perfected down the years – happy-go-lucky, funny, warm – that Claire is a million miles away from. Acerbic, angry, frustrated and keen to take it out on anyone around her, she's the sort of character it would be very easy to take a dislike to – yet Aniston's natural charm and personality shines the slimmest of lights onto the character, and as the story develops Claire becomes if not quite a sympathetic

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

figure, then certainly an empathetic one.

Anyone who knows the actress purely for her lighter work will be pretty surprised by how good she is here, but those who have seen the aforementioned *The Good Girl* will know how Aniston is capable of stretching her range, and she does it here again with no little aplomb.

There is a wry, dry comedic sensibility, not quite black but certainly dark, that allows her to stretch her legs a little, but in the film's more darker and harder moments she really comes into her own. Around her are her sparring partners Roy (Sam Worthington) and her cleaner/assistant (Adriana Barraza), both of whom offer more than able support, while having their own small moments to embellish their characters.

What is a shame is that around these impressive turns there is very little narrative weight. Patrick Tobin's script doesn't really plough new ground, and the narrative beats feel familiar and expected; there is no point where you see anything that you haven't seen before, from the reason Claire is in both the physical and mental state that she is, through to the slight redemption of her character – while the story feels like it builds and builds to something, but never really gets there.

Director Daniel Barnz fares slightly better, the film having a visual style that is striking, but again feels a little too similar to the many independent films that share that woozy aesthetic; there are a few clever moments, but again it feels like something you've seen before.

It's Jennifer Aniston's performance that truly makes you want to have a slice of *Cake* however, and watching the former Friend be anything but friendly in such a superb turn makes you want to see more of her in more dramatic fare; sadly, however, *Cake* fails to match her performance.

VERDICT: A case of a superb performance enlivening an otherwise lacklustre film, Jennifer Aniston delivers an incredibly powerful performance – but *Cake* is unable to match it with a story that feels predictable and all too common. Without Aniston it would be a below-average effort; with her it's above average. *Worth watching*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Good Girl* (2002), *American Beauty* (1999).

Bob Carter from F1 in Schools with the BCS Bloodhound Team – Joshua Garland, Dylan Davies, Ruben Hopkin, Luke Sargent, Jack Oliver and Thomas Froud.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

The BCS Racing Team, Mitchell Thorngate, Oliver Bartlett, William Eddy, Thomas Cosgrove and Gareth Hurman.

F1 in Schools success

TWO teams from Barry Comprehensive School won through to the F1 in Schools national finals from the regional final held recently at Swansea Waterfront Museum.

F1 in Schools Ltd is a social enterprise working with industry partners to create a fun and exciting learning environment for young people to develop an informed view about careers in engineering, science, marketing and technology.

BCS Racing took the honours in the F1 Class of the competition, beating 9 other teams and BCS Bloodhound won the Bloodhound Class, beating eight other teams.

BSC Racing were delighted to win and said: "For the second year in a row we're through to the Nationals, to face the other competitors and see how we perform against them. We think our standard of engineering and our team performance put us ahead of the rest."

In addition to their own preparations for the competition, the senior team also set up and ran the new BCS Bloodhound team. The older students mentored the Year-7 students through their first F1 in Schools experience and were delighted at the new team's success.

The BCS Bloodhounds said: "We're feeling amazing after winning. Our presentation was our strongest part. We're very proud to be going to Birmingham, especially as it's the first time we've done this.

Congratulations to both teams!

AC

COUNCILLOR STEPS DOWN

THE Vale Council announced this week that it had reduced the size of its cabinet to six members following the resignation of Coun Rob Curtis as cabinet member for environment.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "At a time of significant cuts to local government spending, the only appropriate course of action was to take this as an opportunity to further reduce the cost of politicians to the organisation.

"The financial constraints placed upon the Vale of Glamorgan Council by central government mean that my cabinet colleagues and I are currently having to ask service managers to find considerable savings. I feel it is only right that the council's political leadership lead by example.

"Coun Curtis' departure will be a great loss to the authority. I have thanked him for his considerable input over the past three years and look forward to continuing to work with Rob in his role as a ward member."

The size of the council's cabinet was reduced from 10 posts to seven in 2012, a change which has saved the council in excess of £100k in the years since.

The role of cabinet member for environment, which include responsibility for waste management and recycling, highways maintenance, and street lighting, will be redistributed amongst the remaining cabinet members.

Details of their expanded portfolios will be confirmed at the next meeting of full council on March 4. Coun Curtis remains a ward member for the Gibbonsdown ward in Barry.

I vote for Julia!

THERE have been articles in the press recently on who is the greatest person from Cardiff which leads me to ask who is the greatest person from my home town of Barry?

After a lot of thought, for me it must be Julia Gillard – the first woman prime minister and first woman Labor leader in Australia.

Born in the Queen Street area of Barry, she emigrated to Australia in 1966 and was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1998, becoming PM in 2002.

Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

News from Barry Community Garden

WE are having a Welsh-themed day on March 2 when we'll be wearing something Welsh, such as a daffodil or leek or rugby top. We'll also have a cup of Welsh tea and a Welsh cake for visitors who want to pop in. Everyone welcome between 10am – 2pm.

On March 12, we are working with Keep Wales Tidy to run a workshop on how to sharpen and maintain your garden tools. Bring along your blunt shears and secateurs and we'll help you make them as good as new. Everyone welcome between 10am – 1pm. Both events are being held at Barry Community Garden and Allotment, off Dyfnallt Road, Gibbonsdown, Barry, CF63 1RU.

For more information email gardenmanager@hotmail.co.uk or contact us through our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BarryCommunityGardenAllotment.

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Agatha Christie library opened at Atlantic College

Only Boys Aloud performed at the event.

The bust of Agatha Christie is unveiled by Matthew Prichard.

THE official opening of the Agatha Christie Library at UWC Atlantic College was performed on February 16 by Mathew Prichard CBE, DL, grandson of legendary murder mystery writer, Agatha Christie.

The ceremony at St Donat's also included a performance by the college's theatre arts students, marking the 125th anniversary of Christie's birth with a special enactment of the author's most renowned play, *The Mousetrap*.

"The students' performance is itself recognition of the library's principal benefactor, The Mousetrap Settlement Trust, which is primarily funded by the international royalties of the murder mystery that has played continuously since opening in 1952," a spokesman said.

"Without the charity's contribution the refurbishment to bring state-of-the art education technology to the 12th century St Donat's Castle campus would not have been possible."

As founder and chairman of The Mousetrap Settlement Trust, Mr Prichard closed the ceremony by unveiling a bronze bust of Agatha Christie.

Gareth Thomas play is great entertainment, BUT BRIDGEND IS SHORT-CHANGED

by PHILIP IRWIN

WHEN Gareth Thomas launched his autobiography at an event in Cowbridge last year, he was asked about a proposed play on his life, entitled *Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage*.

He said that after working on the book, he wanted to do something different, and spoke about his desire to be involved in something positive for his home town, Bridgend.

He was interested in combining his life story with something that would redress the balance after the events of January and February 2008, which led to Bridgend being labelled "the suicide capital of the world".

It seemed an admirable wish, but a difficult trick to pull off. Nevertheless, National Theatre Wales asked Out of Joint theatre company, under the direction of Max Stafford Clark, to tackle it, and they decided to do the piece in writer Robin Soans' 'verbatim documentary' style.

What you get is six excellent Welsh actors, three male and three female, who all at one time or another speak Gareth Thomas' words, and they also play a range of people who were affected by the suicides, or by Gareth's struggle over whether to come out in the ultra-male sport of rugby.

So, the play will run at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff until March 7, and then goes on tour around Wales, finishing the Welsh run in Bridgend, with three nights at the Sony Theatre in Bridgend College (March 26-28).

Then, through April, May and June, it tours England and I have to confess that after 10 minutes, my first thought was: "What are the English going to make of this?"

It's not the strong Welsh accents - Ruth Jones' *Stella* has done the groundwork there. It's the fact that much of the first 10 minutes is taken up with the history of Bridgend Rugby Club.

The glory days with JPR, Steve Fenwick et al, the reputation for scintillating back play, and the sense of pride in beating big city neighbours such as Cardiff or Swansea.

Then you get the machinations of professionalism, of regional rugby, the forced merger with Pontypridd, and the eventual demise of the Celtic Warriors. Is it suggested that the loss of civic pride played a part in the eventual spate of suicides? Never explicitly, but that is the subtext.

Despite its serious subject, the show is very funny, and there are plenty of laughs throughout this piece. Incidentally, the language is not for anyone's maiden aunt.

Once the rugby history lesson is over, we learn more about Gareth Thomas as he grows up and becomes aware that he is different.

Cast members play his parents and friends and we are introduced to two young Bridgend College students who, it turns out, are going to shine some light on the mindset of young Bridgend people.

Bridgend's own Kate-Elin Salt plays Meryl, a young girl coping with the trauma of her father's suicide, and trying to make sense of it. Katie-Elin does wide-eyed innocence better than anyone, and her character is the one that asks the most questions.

Her friend, Darcey, played by Lauren Roberts, has plenty of spirit, but also has mental health issues and during the play has a number of failed suicide attempts, until she comes to terms with life.

The staging is clever, with each cast member helpfully putting on a Welsh jersey with 'Thomas' on the back whenever they are playing Gareth.

They spend quite some time throwing a rugby ball around the stage and I'm pleased to say that the all-Welsh cast did not let down their nation – no one sent out a bad pass and no one dropped the ball! Two of the male cast, Rhys ap William and Patrick Brennan, have serious rugby experience, so they clearly taught their fellow cast members well.

Rhys and Patrick are both excellent, playing a range of characters, as are Daniel Hawksford and Bethan Witcomb.

As Gareth's story develops, it covers much the same ground as recent BBC documentaries, although there are several surprising revelations, which I'm not going to pass on here.

At the same time, Meryl and Darcey tell their stories, but they are running in parallel, rather than really connecting.

The writer and director try to overcome this with a rapid five-minute tie-up at the end, where Gareth visits the college to meet the girls, and each is inspired by the other's struggles.

Then the cast get together and sing 'Guide Me O Thy Great Redeemer'. They sing it damn well, but it is all a bit too neat.

Nevertheless, the play provides great entertainment, is thought-provoking, and is much funnier than the subject matter suggests. Only a prude could sit there stonefaced.

So, why do I have that feeling that Bridgend was short-changed? Well, we journalists were kindly given a book with the script in full, and act two starts with a scene involving Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, and Katie-Elin Salt's character Meryl.

It's quite long, and Madeleine Moon talks about the effect of the Bridgend suicides at the time, while Meryl gives an insight into how young people viewed the media storm.

The only problem is that this scene was dropped from the performance. I can only assume that the production team wanted a snappier opening to the second half.

So, who puts Bridgend's point of view? Step forward Neil Kinnock. After all, a Gwent MP, an EEC Commissioner and a member of the House of Lords is the obvious choice for an 'overview' of Bridgend.

What's more, the Neil Kinnock in this show throws off a few comments, such as "rock and roll killed the chapels" and "Scargill and Thatcher between them killed the mining industry" but seems more intent on getting to the bar for a pint.

It's a verbatim documentary, of course, so he clearly did say what he says on stage. I'm puzzled, however, by the way his character is drawn.

What is he meant to represent? Answers on a postcard please.....

Autism event

THE National Autistic Society's Cardiff and Vale branch will hold a coffee morning at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN on Saturday, March 14 (10.30am-12pm).

Though aimed at parents/carers of children/adults with autism, it may interest professionals working with families who live with autism.

See the branch website at www.cardiffandvaleautism.org.uk or email: nascardiff@nas.org.uk.

Meet Plaid

THE next free coffee morning organised by Plaid Cymru councillors in Dinas Powys will be held on Saturday, February 28 in Lee Hall, Britway Road, at 11am.

The future use of Old St Cyres school site and the Cross Common Bridge will be discussed.

Beavers and Cubs scout around Westminster!

The youngsters take in the big city!

WHAT do you do with a group of Beavers and Cubs on the first day of half term? Hire a coach and go to London!

About a year ago, a Scout from 11th Barry Sea Scouts held an event to raise over £500 to fund the purchase of a new Shelter Box for the Young Shelter Box Appeal. Among the guests was Alun Cairns MP, who invited the group on a tour of Westminster Palace.

Early one wet and dark Monday morning, the Beavers, Cubs, helpers and Leaders of 11th Barry along with new District Commissioner Chris Parsons, boarded a coach for London.

First stop was the Imperial War Museum we walked along the Thames, past Lambeth Palace Gardens and on to Westminster Bridge.

At Westminster Hall we were met by Mr Cairns and Hannah Kentish, The Scouts Association's first ever UK Youth Commissioner. Mr Cairns told them about the history of the hall, including how Henry VIII used to play tennis in the hall, which fascinated them.

Five Beavers were invested into Cubs and Chris Parsons made presentations to the leaders: Bryan Foley, Barry Group Scout Leader received his 15 years service award. Assistant Beaver Section Leader, Stephanie Murray, was presented with her Wood Badge – the internationally recognised Scouting training award.

Following a fascinanting tour of the Palace, which included the House of Lords and House of Commons, the party made our way back to our coach and started our return journey to Barry.

For further information, contact scouts.org.uk/home/ to find your nearest group.

Youth Project AGM

PENARTH Youth Project will hold its AGM on Monday, March 9 at 5pm in Room 2, West House, Stanwell Road, Penarth. Refreshments will be served.

Cool Crafts

THERE will be Cool Crafts at Cowbridge Library on Saturdays from 10.30am-11.30am for children aged five and above (£2 per session).

Take a Peak at challenge for Ty Hafan!

THE GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in aid of Tŷ Hafan, now in its 17th year, takes place on June 20 with walkers scaling Snowdon – the highest peak in Wales, Cadair Idris, and Pen-y-Fan – all within 15 hours.

More than 5,000 people have travelled from all over the world to take on the challenge and a total of £1,400,000 has been raised for Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales, in Sully.

A group of dads of some of the children and young people supported by Tŷ Hafan will be entering teams once again this year.

Andrew Evans from Cardiff took part last year, a few months before his two-year-old son, Oscar, sadly lost his battle with Menkes Disease.

He said: "We wore Tŷ Hafan t-shirts with pictures of our children on the front and when we reached the top of Pen-y-Fan, we placed their teddies and soft toys down as a tribute to them. It was emotional and a special moment for us all."

Andrew, his partner, Jenn, along with their family friends have been fundraising tirelessly for Tŷ Hafan and have so far raised more than £10,000 for the charity.

"We are part of the Tŷ Hafan family now," said Andrew. "We will never forget what they have done for us and will continue to raise funds in Oscar's memory so they can help more families like ours."

GE Aviation Wales has supported the Welsh 3 Peaks event since it started in 1998.

The first challenge was instigated by a group of GE Aviation Wales employees and a few members of the original team are still involved with the event.

Mike Patton, Managing Director said: "We are incredibly proud to support the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge. Tŷ Hafan provides a vital service to the local community and the hospice supports hundreds of children and their families all year round.

"The challenge attracts people from all across Wales and beyond. The atmosphere on the day is fantastic, and it is great to see so many people coming together to raise money for such an important and worthwhile cause."

To enter, each team of four plus a designated driver is asked to pay a £50 registration fee, plus £800 in sponsorship. Register online at www.welsh3peaks.co.uk or call 029 2053 2283 for more information.

'HGVS SHOULD KEEP TO AGREED ROUTES'

LAST week, a GEM reader raised the issue of HGVs travelling through Barry, particularly with regard to routes taken to the Waterfront development in the town.

*Here, **MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY**, of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, responds to the issues raised.*

IN response to the letter written to The GEM on February 19, I echo the sympathies sent to the families of those involved in the tragic accident in Bath.

I completely understand the concerns raised in the letter regarding the Waterfront development.

This is a huge project, involving the redevelopment of the West Pond and South Quay areas for residential, retail, and leisure uses, as well as a much-needed new link road to Barry Island, all of which is estimated to bring in around £230m of investment to the area.

Naturally, this means there will be an amount of construction traffic while work is ongoing.

The planning application which approved the redevelopment, required that the developers agree construction traffic and routes for heavy construction vehicles for the duration of the works.

The council has received a number of recent complaints regarding possible breaches of the approved route and has contacted the developers to express its concern.

The developers have in turn reiterated to the council that they will be ensuring that all contractors adhere to the agreed routes.

It should of course be noted that these conditions will only control the routes taken by vehicles which are connected with the Waterfront development and cannot enforce routes taken by any other heavy vehicles.

Nevertheless, if it is proven that the relevant condition is being breached, the service of a formal 'Breach of Condition Notice' on the developers will be the next step.

Accordingly, we would encourage residents to contact council officers should they have any concerns that the development traffic for the Waterfront is not using the agreed route, via the contact centre on 01446 700111, the planning enforcement complaint form, or by emailing *visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*.

We are always open to working with the local community to iron out any issues, and to help make the Vale a better place for all.

We are very confident this project will be a huge boost, not just for Barry, but for the Vale as a whole.

Incinerator plan should be sent back, says group

BARRY & Vale Friends of the Earth say they are "deeply concerned" to see that Sunrise Renewables is hoping to locate an incinerator at Barry Dock. A previous application failed.

Keith Stockdale, a coordinator with the group, said: "The Docks Incinerator Action Group has sprung back into life and will fight this proposal right through.

"We hope to win full support from Barry Town Council at their planning meeting on March 3.

"The Vale Council should send the plan back as inadequate and tell Sunrise it does not fit with current aspirations for clean development and light industry on this part of the dock."

The Glamorgan GEM Food For Thought....

ARE WE IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF DINING OUT?

A HOST of favourable factors mean there has never been a better time to dine out. In recent years there have been a huge improvements in British cuisine.

There are several reasons for this. In a time of austerity, restaurants and gastro-pubs have become highly competitive. Also, thanks to 'cookery evangelism' on TV, diners have become more knowledgeable and demanding (not a bad thing).

Here in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, we now have a rich variety of dining experiences, all vying for new clients as eateries are forced to become more innovative and specialise in a way they would never have dreamed of in the distant past.

Today's chefs will offer specialities such as adventurous seafood dishes and exotic desserts. In fact, foreign cuisine is very well featured on local menus – and it all adds up to even greater choice for the discerning consumer.

Compare these changes to days of yore when, apart from a few 'eccentric' exceptions, dining out appeared to be exclusively about familiar, traditional dishes.

Foodies now have a little extra help, too! They can check The GEM and restaurant websites to see what is on offer, and the local authority puts '*scores on the doors*' to let local people know how well an outlet is run.

Restaurant prices are keener than ever, too and it all adds up to an inescapable conclusion – there's never been a better time to dine out!

The Gallery named as the top 'sustainable restaurant' in Wales

A Barry bistro which is one of only a handful in the UK to serve British grown tea, and has plans to become the first brewer of beer using Welsh-grown hops, has been named the most sustainable restaurant in Wales.

The Gallery's owner Barnaby Hibbert, received the award from Raymond Blanc, President of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), at the Sustainable Restaurant Awards, in London on Monday, February 23.

Serving organic vegetables grown locally by a charity that employs people with learning difficulties, complemented by foraged ingredients and seafood landed by boat captains who are friends of the owner, helped the 80-cover bistro and bar win the award for the second year running.

Among other factors that contributed to The Gallery's success, were the biodynamic and organic wines and exclusive Welsh beer.

The Clink, at HMP Cardiff, the prison training restaurant, and Enochs Fish and Chips, in Llandudno, were named as runners-up.

The theme of the event was the Future of Food and the 250 guests were served cricket canapés prepared by Wahaca, before sitting down to enjoy an exquisite two-course menu prepared by James Golding, Chef Director of THE PIG and served by a team of graduates from The Clink Charity.

Warm Welsh tastes on a very cold night!

THE Bont Faen WI welcomed Sian Roberts to the February meeting – to talk about Welsh food and drink.

Members who ventured out on a cold, wet night, were treated to a glass of locally-produced perry, which was a delicious start to the meeting.

Sian has been showcasing Welsh products since working with the WDA, bringing the unique tastes of laverbread, Welsh cakes, cawl and Welsh cheeses to food festivals around Europe and further afield. Members sampled dried laverbread in a dip and tasty oatcakes.

The February social was a trip to the New Theatre to see *One Man, Two Governors*, which was very funny and enjoyable.

All the forthcoming events are detailed in the Bont Faen WI newsletter, which was available at the meeting, the next couple of months being full of interesting social and fundraising events.

We are hoping to repeat the success with the May Fair Lucky Dip.

Our next meeting on March 9 is on the subject of card and other fraud awareness. Visitors are welcome.

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POSITIVE REPORT ON COUNCIL'S PROGRESS IN AUSTERE TIMES

LAST month, I wrote about the decision of the Welsh Government not to allow the council to continue to explore a voluntary merger with Bridgend Council.

This month, I am pleased to confirm that the Vale Council has received a grant of £1.2m from the Welsh Government in recognition of its high achievement for 2013/14.

The award relates to the council's Outcome Agreement, which covers five key areas – supporting the local economy, increasing school attainment, improving the lives of older people, improving social housing, and reducing landfill.

This positive review resulted in the authority qualifying for the maximum award available. I am, therefore, pleased at the Welsh Government's recognition of our success, which serves to demonstrate that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is a high achieving local authority.

This success is a testament to the hard work of officers who continue to deliver high quality services at a time of unprecedented financial pressure. Their hard work ensures that Vale residents continue to receive the best services that we can deliver.

SCHOOLS' STRATEGY

Last month, I indicated that we would report on the continuing school investment programme and the consultation in relation to the secondary education provision in Barry.

This follows on from the successes at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Penarth Learning Community, and our decision to create a new 'learning community' in Llantwit Major.

The recent report recommended further consultation on the proposed £35m transformation of secondary education in Barry. The proposals considered by cabinet this week include the creation of a Welsh medium campus for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Nant Talwg on the current Bryn Hafren site, which is large enough to allow for the required expansion of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in line with the projected increase in pupil numbers.

The proposal would also lead to the creation of a mixed-sex English medium campus on the current Barry Comprehensive, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Nant Talwg site.

The planned investment would see over £18m committed to improving the new mixed English campus and nearly £17m spent on the new Ysgol Nant Talwg and Bro Morgannwg campus.

This approach is being taken for several reasons. When we consulted on mixed-sex schooling there was strong support for co-education. We had initially envisioned a single mixed comprehensive school split across two sites.

However, as we began to develop a detailed plan for delivering this, it became clear that a reorganisation of English medium education in Barry also presented the opportunity to expand Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and by doing so, enable the high performing school to meet the ever increasing demand for Welsh-medium education in the Vale.

The new proposal will not only provide first class English and Welsh medium secondary schools with sufficient capacity to accommodate future generations of schoolchildren, but also addresses the concerns that many staff and parents raised about the difficulties of splitting a school across two sites.

Even in such austere times, the Labour-led administration is absolutely committed to providing top quality education facilities for all children in the Vale.

It is, therefore, proposed that a full consultation will commence on this new proposal from May 11 for eight weeks, after which a further report will come back to cabinet for consideration.

We believe that the proposed changes will be the final piece in the puzzle in terms of providing the Vale with the highest standard of secondary education we can deliver.

However, as always, the views of our residents are paramount, and if there is no support for the proposal, we will reconsider the issue and look to see if the status quo will have to remain.

As there is much speculation and ill-informed rumour on this subject, I would urge everyone interested to read the cabinet report in full, which can be found on the council's website - valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Full details of what is being proposed and how we would plan to implement this, along with the answers to many frequently asked questions, will be provided to all parents and pupils likely to be affected by any changes ahead of the consultation period.

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

I am also pleased to confirm that youth provision in Barry has been brought under one roof at The Hub, providing a six days-a-week facility where young people learn valuable new skills.

BEACH HUTS

I have previously mentioned the work at Barry Island and as it was recently half term we decided to have a 'Beach Huts Open Week', giving the opportunity for residents and visitors to see the new beach huts, before they become available for public hire later this spring.

It was a joy to see so many happy and smiling children and families out walking around Barry Island, using the new Eastern Prom to ride scooters and bicycles safely and trying out their skills on the new climbing wall.

The huts will be available to hire all year round from March 23. During spring and summer they will be available from 10am until 8pm (10pm during peak weeks) at a cost of £20 per day for the smaller huts and £40 per day for the larger huts.

During autumn and winter, they will be available from 10am until 6pm at a cost of £15 and £30 per day, which can be booked in advance online via Contact One Vale.

The larger huts will also be available to community groups and commercial traders during certain weeks of the year.

Finally, I have reluctantly accepted the resignation of Coun Rob Curtis as a cabinet member because he could not devote as much time to his cabinet role as he wanted.

Coun Curtis' departure will be a great loss and I thank him for his input and support over the past three years.

As a result, and following on from reducing the cabinet from 10 posts to seven in 2012, a change which has saved the council in excess of £100k, I have decided to further reduce the size of the cabinet to six.

At a time of significant financial constraints being placed on the council by central government, we currently have to find considerable savings and I believe it is only right that the council's political leadership should lead by example.

Double duty no obstacle for Penarth hockey team!

TWO games in as many days proved to be no obstacle for Penarth Hockey Club's first XI, who used a little fortune and a lot of fortitude to claim back-to-back wins, while the seconds also won make it a successful weekend all round.

BRISTOL & WEST 2-4 PENARTH

Penarth travelled across the Severn on Saturday to face a Bristol & West team that had only lost one game at home all season, knowing that a win against their mid-table rivals would stand them in good stead in pursuit of a top five finish.

Despite the odds appearing to be against them, the Bears started strongly, playing some very good passing hockey, and it wasn't long before their pressure produced the opening goal, albeit a scrappy affair that saw Chris McCarthy eventually slot the ball in the top corner.

Buoyed by their breakthrough, Penarth continued to put the West Country team under pressure and were rewarded with a penalty corner, which was expertly drag-flicked straight down the middle past the helpless keeper.

Although Penarth appeared to be fully in control, the home side broke against the run of play to score a goal with their first chance of the game, reducing the deficit and leaving the visitors shaken. With their tails up, Bristol increased the pressure and capitalised on some poor clearances to claim a penalty corner of their own.

Although Mark Harris saved the initial strike, Bristol reacted better to the rebound, tapping in a bouncing ball to level the scores.

With the game now in the balance, both teams attempted to push forward in search of the halftime advantage, but it was Penarth who claimed the crucial goal as Chris Baker attacked from the right and took full advantage of Sam Chick's intelligent diversionary run to find Tom Parkinson unmarked at the far post.

Determined not to dent their home record further, Bristol committed more men forward from the start of the second period, putting Penarth under pressure and creating several chances, but the Vale side dug in and a committed performance from the defence weathered the early storm.

Penarth then started to regain control of the game, creating chances of their own, but it took an improbable goal to settled the game. Beginning with a simple one-two between Baker and Tom Haran, the former found himself tight on the byeline, but his speculative cross deceived the Bristol keeper and crept in off the back post to make the score 4-2 in the visitors' favour.

CHELTENHAM 'B' 2-4 PENARTH

Perhaps complacent after their Saturday success, Penarth started slowly against bottom club Cheltenham and soon found themselves 2-0 down.

Somehow, the visitors got to halftime without conceding again and used the break to refocus. Taking the game by the scruff of the neck, it quickly became one-way traffic in the second period and, following some good interplay down the right flank, Joe Wells found Owen Hopkins in the 'D' and the forward smashed the ball first time past the Cheltenham 'keeper.

A second goal followed quickly as Sam Docherty threw a big aerial towards the Cheltenham area, where Wells was again on hand to set up Chris Baker for an easy finish.

Penarth were now in ruthless mood, with Baker gradually taking control of proceedings, punishing some poor defending and smashing the ball past the hapless Cheltenham keeper to give the visitors their first lead of the afternoon.

Baker also played a part in the fourth and final Penarth goal, forcing the home keeper into a save only for the ball to bounce back to Sam Chick, who slapped the ball home to secure a vital three points and complete a successful foray into England for the Welsh club, who rise to fourth in De Cymru & The Marches 1 with four games to play.

PENARTH 'A' 2-0 CAREW

While the senior side was venturing across the bridge, the 2nd XI welcomed an improving Carew side, determined to avenge a contentious 5-2 defeat in the reverse fixture.

Although the visitors took time to find their feet on the tricky Barry pitch, the opening exchanges were evenly matched, with Dave Watkins and Matt Birch putting pressure on the Carew goal and the Penarth defence coping ably with any attacks the west Wales side managed to put together.

Knowing that they needed to make a breakthrough before the interval, Penarth began to play some nice passing hockey, linking through James Davies, Dave Thompson and the industrious Rob Harrison to increase the pressure on Carew's defence, but it was a quick move down the left flank that eventually produced the opening goal, as Birch found Watkins in the 'D' and the veteran finished coolly.

With their confidence up, Penarth took the game to the visitors for the remainder of the half, and were rewarded with a second goal when an illegal high stick on the goalline resulted in a penalty flick, which Birch converted nonchalantly to give the Vale side a 2-0 advantage at the break.

Carew, however, continued to pose a threat and Penarth knew that further goals would be needed to put the game beyond doubt.

Despite a brief snowstorm, the Bears continued to create chances through youngsters Sam Salisbury and Rory Vizard but, in typical fashion, failed to convert any.

The defensive combination of Ian Smith, Zbig Sobierserski, Craig Llewellyn, Paul Roberts and Graeme Jones successfully snuffed out the future of Welsh hockey for 50 minutes and the game ran its course with both sides going close to adding to the scoreline.

Penarth had reason to thank goalkeeper Paul Thomas for clearing up one Carew break and the stand-in was eventually rewarded with a clean sheet as the home side survived a spell of late pressure to run out 2-0 winners.

With their nearest rivals not playing, Penarth reclaimed the hotly-contested fifth place in De Cymru 2, but know that the remaining four fixtures will be crucial in determining who heads the division's midfield pack come the season's end.

This weekend sees the 1st XI hosting a Bristol University side just two points behind them in the standings, while the seconds travel to take on a Llanishen & Caerphilly team looking to cement third spot in the lower division.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. **CL**

CHESS TEAMS' DOUBLE BLOW

THERE were only two games for the Barry Chess Club, both played at North Cardiff – with the Gambits taking on the league's only 100 per cent team, the Titans, and the Knock Out Cup quarter final.

The Barry Chess club has an enviable record in cup competitions. In the summer version of the KO Cup, we were runners-up in 2010 and have been the holders since 2012 - but this is a new and bigger tournament. With a very strong team we expected to win on both the bottom boards and merely needed a minimum of one draw from the top two boards.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, losing both games on the top two boards. This meant the match was drawn 2-2, so on tie-break, bottom board elimination, we were the team eliminated.

We wish the North Cardiff side all the best for their semi-final away to Pontypridd.

For the Gambits, it was a tough, but enjoyable trip to North Cardiff. As expected, the champions-elect heavily outgraded us on every board but we can be proud of our team and individual performances. I am sure we will each have learned something and Jason Grice and Nick Mavroyenneas will have picked up several grading points for their hard earned draws.

The match result was a 4-1 win for the Titans, strengthening their lead at the top of the division.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards – whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details, visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones, Club Secretary

BRIDGING A GAP FOR TY HAFAN

SULLY Bridge Club has again turned up trumps for Ty Hafan – members have a bookstall, bring and buy – which they keep well stocked and when it gets to £50, it goes to help Ty Hafan and they start over again.

Emphatic win for Cowbridge team

PLAYING in the worst weather conditions of the season Cowbridge under-16s overcame high wind, rain and sleet to defeat neighbours Llantwit Major by six tries to nil, the final score 32-0.

The tries came from Tom Bailey, Osian John, Harrison Stevens, James Holder, Sam Palmer and Seán Davies, who also converted one of the tries, as Cowbridge stretched their unbeaten home record to three months.

Outstanding in the backs were Joe Nott and Kyle May Rees, while Charlie Martin, Harry Hopkins and Will Couzins were the pick of the pack; top tacklers were Matthew Keating and Josh Evans.

Top try scorers to date are Dan Bunney (7), Seán Davies (5), Sam Palmer, James Holder and Cai Evans (4) and Harrison Stevens (3).

Cai Evans has scored 68 points (25 conversions and six penalties). **AD**

HARD WORK PAYS OFF AS ARTISTIC CLUB ROLL ON TO SUCCESS ACROSS BORDER!

IT was a 5am start for the Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club, who took part in West Berkshire's artistic roller skating competition on February 15.

They competed in nine events overall and were placed on the podium in almost every event they entered.

***The results were as follows**: Mollie Griffith, sixth in the Newcomers Solo; under-10s novice solo, Maya Archampong second; Erin Maxwell sixth; Bethan Daly first in her novice solo event; Michael Vaughan and Phoebe Escott joint first and Medi Western third in novice solo event; Nareece Iqbal seventh in novice solo; Ewan Maxwell first and Charleigh Griffith second in their novice solos; Kaitlin Daly second in elementary solo; Lara Goodwin second in preliminary solo; Michael Vaughan and Bethan Daly first in the novice duos; Charleigh Griffith and Ewan Maxwell fifth in novice duos; Phoebe Escott and Medi Western fourth in novice duos.*

All novice teams were placed on the podium with a special mention to Medi Western who stepped in at the last moment to skate up two levels in the junior team, placing third, and Elizabeth Vaughan who came fifth in the over 30s solo event.

It was a long day but rewarding for the skaters and coaches who now feel that all the hard work in training is starting to pay off!

Sheilah Davies the head coach was unable to be at the event but was extremely proud of the skaters as were the other coaches, Anne Marie Escott, Elizabeth Vaughan, Donna Daly, Hilary Cridge. The coaches would also like to thank Julie Whittingham, a friend of the club who has been providing help to the coaching team.

The skaters train three times a week in Cogan, Colcot and Llantwit Major leisure centres. Our club session is held at Colcot Sports Centre, Barry on Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm; this costs £4 or £6 with skate hire – the best value roller skating session in the Vale! Skates must be reserved before attending.

Anybody interested in joining the club should contact the club secretary, on 07517 854453, or visit our website, Glamorgan-artistic-rsc.webs.com or see our facebook page. **AMY GOODWIN**

Llantwit Major under-12s defeat Cowbridge in cold conditions

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12s faced off against Cowbridge.

From the start you could tell Cowbridge were going to use their forwards to full advantage and throw everything at the Llantwit Major team.

The first ruck saw all the Cowbridge forwards piling in trying to overwhelm the Llantwit squad. Llantwit had prepared well for this game and only placed the minimum amount of players into these rucks, allowing them to have a stronger defensive line.

This tactic showed early on to work, as every Cowbridge attack was thwarted by an aggressive defensive line forcing them back.

Llantwit on the attack looked dangerous with ball in hand, moving it along the line, and with great support work from the likes of Sam Deere, Spencer Williams and Rhys Lloyd, soon forced their way towards the Cowbridge try line.

The Cowbridge tactics seemed to leave their back line vulnerable to the bigger Llantwit backs. Ewan Heywood, Jacob Pereira and Kieran Daw were soon putting together some good attacking moves, which were slowly showing up weaknesses in the Cowbridge defence.

From a loose Cowbridge kick, the ball was collected by fullback Cole Saunders, who gladly attacked the Cowbridge line and eventually broke through to score in the far right corner.

Llantwit's heads were now up and from the kick off they attack the line again with the running skills of Kofi Jones and Connor Booker.

Again Cowbridge throw everything they had at Llantwit with no success, the more mobile Llantwit forwards again refrained from committing to the break downs, relying on pop passes and rip ball keeping the ball away from their opponents.

The cold and wet was now affecting the state of play and this showed when two well-worked moves by Llantwit saw the ball both times dropped over the Cowbridge try line.

The look of horror on the faces of both Ewan Heywood and Jacob Pereira showed how much it meant to these two players.

Boys from both sides were now starting to feel the cold and it wasn't long before the boys on the bench were called in to play.

Llantwit Major suddenly lost their fullback then right wing; Rian Thomas and Tom Redfern-Hughes came on to fill those positions with ease.

The second half brought more headaches for Llantwit Major with the loss of outside half Kieran Daw to injury, the outside centre Ewan Heywood to other commitments and new winger Morgan Thomas with a partial dislocation of the thumb.

This became worse when the stand-in outside half Jacob Pereira was sent off for an alleged dangerous tackle. The Llantwit back line now had to regroup and dig deep for the remainder of the game.

Jacob Hunt moved from second row to inside centre, Spencer Williams from flanker to left wing and Sam Jenkins to outside centre.

Stephen Williams the scrum half and new outside half Kofi Jones now had the non envious task of trying to dictate what was left of the game.

The Llantwit forwards now also replenished by Jordan Griffith-Lee, Luke Thomas and Cai Ellerton, now had to help the stalwarts of the front row, Aled Leitch, Sennan Cummings Jones and Isaac McBride, to keep the slender lead they had gained.

The conditions were now getting close to unplayable but both teams braved on and from out of nowhere Llantwit started to create some magic.

Right wing Rian Thomas collected the ball just inside the Cowbridge half and kick over the approaching tacklers, then showing off his football skills dribbled the ball over their try line to make the score at 10-0.

From the kick-off, Llantwit found themselves back in the Cowbridge half; again the ball moved alone the back line their cold fingers now barely able to hold the ball and like a replay Rian Thomas mimicked his earlier try by booting the ball and dribbling through to finally kill off the game, the score 15-0.

Cowbridge bravely managed to put some points on the board by eventually breaking through the defensive line, to score a converted try and make the final score 15-7.

Thanks to the parents from both sides for the support and encouragement given to both teams in the difficult conditions and well done to all players involved from both teams for their commitment and hopefully they all thawed out after.

***TEAM:** Rian Thomas, Aled Leitch, Cole Saunders, Ewan Heywood, Isaac McBride, Jordan Griffith-Lee, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Kofi Jones, Morgan Thomas, Sam Deere, Sam Jenkins, Sennan Cummings-Jones, Tom Redfern-Hughes, Spencer Williams, Connor Booker, Owen David, Cai Elerton, Jacob Hunt, Rhys Lloyd, Luke Thomas and Stephen Williams.* **MD**

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Windsor Court, Grangetown - £79,950

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Somerset Street, Grangetown - £104,950

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• Cash buyers only
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WHITCHURCH

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Allen & Harris are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£90,000** for 145 Clydesmuir Rd, Tremorfa, Cardiff, CF24 2PZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Allen & Harris Estate Agents, 84, Albany Rd, Cardiff, CF24 3RS before exchange of contracts.

ROATH

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Allen & Harris are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£114,950** for 183, Glyn Eiddew, Pentwyn, Cardiff, CF23 7BT. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Allen & Harris Estate Agents, 84, Albany Rd, Cardiff, CF24 3RS before exchange of contracts.

ROATH

SOCIAL CARE LEADER HITS OUT...

'We have to change the DNA of Wales'

A SOCIAL care leader has welcomed new legislation to beef up regulation of the sector, but warned it will not work unless there is a "fundamental change of culture."

Mario Kreft MBE, Chair of Care Forum Wales, said it was vital to "change the DNA in Wales" to ensure everybody involved in the social care sector in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan worked together in collaboration.

Care Forum Wales are also calling for the people from local authorities and health boards who commission social care services to be regulated so that their decisions are based on quality not price.

The new law to strengthen the regulation and inspection of the social care sector was announced by Health Minister Mark Drakeford AM.

According to the Welsh Government, care home owners in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan will become more accountable for the services they provide to protect children and adults..

Mr Drakeford said the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Bill, would put delivering success at the heart of a "revised and streamlined legal framework."

Mr Kreft said: "Care Forum Wales would want to support the overall thrust of the legislation. It is some time since the current regulations and legal system were put in place and, as the minister said, we've got many more people with complex needs receiving services at home.

"The people living in care homes have very complex needs, much more so than 20 years ago. It is therefore absolutely the right time, on the back of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which has created this new framework, that we now match that with a new regulatory framework, and there are certain aspects that we would certainly welcome.

"But there are also areas of concern. The reality is that in Wales today we have a struggling health and social care system. It's struggling because of demand and because we are not harnessing the resources that we already have at our disposal.

"Unfortunately, this new legislation will change little unless we really harness all the resources at our disposal and particularly recognise that social care is a fundamental cornerstone of the NHS in Wales.

"Independent social care in Wales is being decimated by flawed commissioning practices which put price before quality.

"As a result, morale in the sector among providers and the workforce is very low.

"The progress that we've made is lamentable. Yes, there are pockets of good practice, but that's not good enough for a small nation of three million people. We should have got this right by now.

"This new law will go some way, but if we don't fundamentally change the way we do business, if we don't fundamentally change the way we work collaboratively, if we don't fundamentally value providers and their workforce and just hit them when it goes wrong, then quite frankly this will not make the progress and provide the framework that the minister wants it to do," Mr Kreft concluded.

FOOTBALL CLUB CABARET NIGHT

A CABARET night featuring 'Forte' is to be held at Dinas Powys Athletic Club.

The event takes place on Friday, April 17 (7.30pm) and tickets are £7.50 per person.

The evening is in aid of Dinas Powys FC, St Cyres redevelopment bid.

To book your tickets, contact Natalie Garland on 07811 494909.

Silent auction

St Curig's Church at Porthkerry is holding a silent auction at 7pm in Rhoose Community Centre tomorrow (Friday, February 27).

Entrance fee is £3 with a free glass of wine. All proceeds will go towards restoring of the unique organ at the church.

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The Cottage, Highfield Close, Barry- £174,950
2 bedroom property, set in an exclusive gated community on Park Road. Hallway, living room, modern fitted kitchen/dining room benefiting from integral appliances. Ground floor bathroom. Ensuite shower room to master bedroom. UPVC DG and GCH. Garden. Two allocated parking spaces. EPC rating=D.

Beaconsfield, Barry - £114,950
2 bedroom apartment with views across the coastline. Porch, hallway, living room. Kitchen/breakfast room. Shower room, UPVC double glazing, GCH. Garage nearby in a block. No chain. EPC rating=E.

Wolfe Close, Barry - £125,000
3 bedroom mid link property set in a cul de sac. Entrance hallway, living room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC DG, combi boiler. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway. EPC rating=C.

Hellas Drive, Barry - £350,000
Executive 4 bedroom detached on Highlight Park development. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room. Downstairs WC, bathroom and ensuite shower room to master bedroom. UPVC DG, GCH. Generous gardens, driveway for up to 6 cars. Double garage with remote control door.

Coronation Street, Barry - £129,950
Three bedroom end terrace in the heart of Barry. Entrance hallway, through living room, dining room, kitchen. Family bathroom to first floor. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed rear garden. No chain. EPC rating=C.

St Pauls Avenue - £150,000
4 bedroom bay fronted terrace property, West end of Barry. Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room. Family bathroom. Bedroom 4 with ensuite WC. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. Basement area ideal for storage. EPC rating=D.

Sunnydale, Colcot Rd, Barry - £279,000
Extended 4 bedroom semi set on a generous plot situated towards the north of Barry. Hallway, cloakroom. 3 recep rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, UPVC double glazing. GCH. Rear garden and forecourt - offroad parking for 3/4 vehicles.

Kathleen Street, Barry - £129,950
3 bedroom mid terrace in popular Park Crescent. Entrance hallway, living room, kitchen. Ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. UPVC, GCH. No chain.

Heol Cilffrydd, Barry - £94,500
2 bedroom ground floor apartment. Waterfront development, communal hallway, entrance hallway. Living room with french doors leading to small patio area. Kitchen, bathroom. UPVC double glazing, electric heating, communal grounds. One allocated parking space and visitors parking. No chain.

Oban Street, Barry - £109,950
Traditional 2 bedroom bay front property. Porch, hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, first floor bathroom. Majority double glazing. GCH. Enclosed forecourt and rear courtyard. No chain. EPC rating=E.

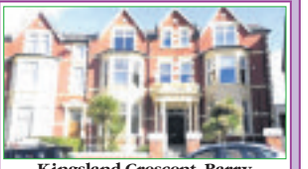
Lakeside, Barry - £399,950
4 bedroom semi detached. Knap area overlooking the lake and coastline beyond. Entrance porch, hallway, lounge/sitting room. Dining room, play room. Modern fitted kitchen, utility room. Bathroom suite, seperate WC. Master bedroom benefiting from roof terrace. UPVC DG. Garden to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for 2 vehicles. EPC rating=E

Small Holdings, Port Rd West, Barry - £259,950
Built in 1911, 4 bedroom semi set on a generous level plot. Entrance hallway, 2 recep rooms, kitchen, utility area. First floor bathroom, UPVC double glazing, GCH, beautiful, mature enclosed gardens to front and rear. No chain. EPC rating=E.

NEW PRICE

Pontypridd Rd, Barry - £309,950
Well presented detached dormer bungalow, generous plot. West end of Barry. Porch, hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen/fam. room, utility room. Fam. bathroom, 3 beds/office to the ground floor. Master bed ensuite to first floor. UPVC DG. GCH. Front & rear gardens. Driveway for 2/3. Single garage, EPC rating=C.

Main St, Barry - £94,950
2 bedroom mid terrace property, east end of Barry. Hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, first floor bathroom. Office, enclosed rear garden. UPVC double glazing. GCH. No chain. EPC rating=D.



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NEW

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY
Modern semi detached, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, three bedrooms, bathroom WC, side access. No chain. EPC=D.
£89,950

NEW

CROSS STREET, BARRY
Well presented, bay fronted traditional, through living room, seperate dining room, spacious bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, No chain. ER=E
£139,950

NEW

ST OSWALDS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining room, replacement kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, viewing essential ER=E
£112,500

NEW

TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE
3 Bedroom dwelling, far reaching views, near the train station. Shops and schools are in close proximity. The coastal path leads to beaches. Porch, entrance hallway. Viewing essential
£155,950

NEW

TRINITY STREET, BARRY
3 Bedrooms, well presented, bay fronted traditional, spacious lounge/diner, replacement kitchen/breakfast, enclosed rear garden, UPVC DG - GCH via combi. ER=D.
£129,950

NEW

WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, WC cloakroom, living room/dining, spacious kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, lane access - no chain. ER=D
£152,500

NEW

GLAN Y MOR, BARRY
2nd floor apartment, 2 bedrooms - ensuite, approx. 16ft living room, balcony with water views, gas central heating, offered with no chain, designated parking, EPC=C
£109,950

NEW

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY
Replacement roof 2014, mid terraced, living room, dining room to kitchen, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, enclosed rear garden, street parking, UPVC - DG & GC heating via combi ER=D.
£79,950

NEW

PRINCES STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, in need of modernistaion, 2 reception rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, gas central heating, ideal west end location.
£105,000

NEW PRICE

YMCA BUILDINGS, WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
1 bedroom, first floor apartment, living room, open plan kitchen - integrated, appliances, designated car parking, town centre location, no chain. ER=C.
£69,950

NEW PRICE

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
End of terrace, double bay traditional, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, lane access. ER=D.
£144,950

NEW PRICE

DOCK VIEW RD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, original features throughout, 26ft living room, kitchen opening to dining room, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom. No chain - town centre location. ER=D.
£149,950

THE RISE, BARRY RD, BARRY
Semi detached, placed on Barry Road, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, side access. No chain, ER=D.
£99,950

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GREENACRES, BARRY
Mid terraced, modern kitchen to front, breakfast bar, living room, modern bathroom, 2 bedrooms, UPVC DG - GCH via combi. No chain, ER=C.
£124,950

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CASTLELAND ST, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, 2 reception rooms, feature fireplace in living room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, recently installed combi boiler. No chain. ER=E
£124,950

POPLAR COURT, BARRY
Modern semi detached, driveway & side access, well presented, fitted kitchen overlooking front, 2 bedrooms, cul de sac position. ER=D
£114,950

REDUCED

SEAPOINT, BARRY
2nd floor, 1 bedroom, views over the old harbour and The Knap, kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG, security door entry system. ER=D
£99,950

GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern end of terraced, kitchen overlooking front, living room, 2 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, designated parking adjacent, side access. ER=D
£122,950

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Detached bungalow, placed in private road, 3 bedrooms, WC cloak, living, dining, secluded rear garden, backing onto Porthkerry. Driveway/garage. ER=D
£299,950

ST NICHOLAS RD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. WC cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, gas central heating, partial sea views, garage with lane access, well presented. ER=D
£214,950

PORTHKERRY RD, BARRY
Elevated traditional, mid terraced, well presented, living room, kitchen/diner, lean-to WC cloakroom, 2 double bedrooms. Raised garden with level sitting areas. ER=E
£134,950

GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Ground floor 1 bed apartment, quiet cul de sac, open plan lounge & kitchen, bathroom, designated parking, communal gardens. EPC=C
£69,950

OAKFIELD ROAD, BARRY
4 bedroom semi, living/dining room, WC cloak, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, dorma bedroom, enclosed rear garden, long driveway/garage. No chain. ER=E
£219,950

NEW PRICE

WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, original stained glass windows, original black & white flooring, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating, no chain. ER=D.
£142,950

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, refurbished traditional, through living room, spacious kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, 2014 bathroom suite, replastered throughout, 2014 combi, newly fitted carpets. No chain. ER=D
£119,950

CWRT NEWTON POOL, RHOOSE
Modern end of terraced, constructed approx. 11 years, modern kitchen to front, living room opening to conservatory, 3 bedrooms (master ensuite) driveway and garage, no chain - well presented.
£164,950

CANON STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, traditional dwelling, living room, through living room, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom, further bedroom, patio, rear garden, garage. No chain. ER=E
£174,950

PICTON ROAD, RHOOSE
Modern end terraced, 2 bedrooms, lounge with log burner, kitchen, cul de sac position, 2 designated parking spaces, ample space to side to extend (subject to usual planning permission)
£135,000

REDUCED

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY
Semi detached dwelling, living, dining & conservatory, extended kitchen. 3 bedrooms, study, family bathroom. Off road rear parking, UPVC DG, GC heating via combi, viewing essential. ER=D.
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LOMBARD STREET, BARRY
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NEW

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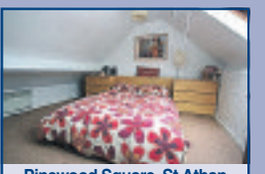

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The GEM
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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

HOLE
David Cyril George *(Dai)*

Peacefully on February 18th, in hospital, Dai of Cowbridge, formerly of Ystradowen. Loving brother of Graham, Michael, Edwina, Philip and the late Betty, respected brother-in-law of Wally and Helen and a much loved uncle of Peter, Elisha and James, will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Thursday, March 5th, service at Ystradowen Church at 2pm, followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers and inquiries to WH Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun CF72 8PN Tel: 01443 223368.

PEARCE
Julie
otherwise Julie Stamp

Peacefully on February 20, Julie passed away in the Marie Curie Hospice, aged 62 years. Julie will be deeply missed by loving husband Adrian, loving son Michael, loving brother and sister Shirley and Johnathan and all family and friends.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until her funeral on Friday, 27th February at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium Port Road, Barry at 3pm.

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Anniversaries

Jamie & Floss Ball
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1st Wedding Anniversary on 1st March

Love you always
Nan & Gramps xxx

BALL
Jamie & Floss
Congratulations

on your 1st Wedding Anniversary on March 1st

All our love
Mum, Dad, Mitchell, Georgia & Boe xxx

REES
Lionel

Suddenly but peacefully on Febuary 15 at UHW Cardiff, surrounded by his family, Lionel of Barry (former Mayor of Barry). Beloved husband of Dorothy, much loved father of Susan and Sandra, father-in-law of David and Julian, loving grandfather of all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday March 4, service 2pm at St Marys Church, Holton Road, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Mourning attire optional.

TANNER
William Marshall (Bill)

Passed away peacefully at Little Brynhill Farm on February 15th. Bill, aged 88 years, a well known milkman and farmer. Dearly loved husband of Janet, much loved Dad of Carol & John. Father-in-law to Sharon and Kevin. Loving grampy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Brother of Peter, Ken and the late Tony.

Bill will be sadly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Service to take place at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11am, followed by interment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to Prostate Cancer Support at The University Hospital Of Wales in memory of Bill.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lynday Ellis 01446 407962.

EVANS
June Irene

Norman, Pauline, David, Lynda and Richard would like to thank all June's family and friends for their kindness and support during the past few difficult weeks.

Thanks for the many cards and donations to Noah's Ark in her memory. Your love and support has been greatly appreciated at this sad time.

PROBERT
Nicola

Peacefully on February 21 after a long illness bravely borne, Nicola, aged 59 years, sadly passed away. Much loved wife of Roger, cherished mum of Alun, Andrew and Sarah. A loving mother-in-law to Vicky and Robert. Dearly missed nanna to Keeley, Logan, Sofia, Tyler and Chelsey. A loving daughter of Harry & Shirley. Nicola will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service on Wednesday, 4 March at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Ward B4 Haematology at the University Hospital of Wales. Family request black attire optional. Further enquiries to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

MASKELL
Petrina (Trina) Ann

Loving daughter of Dilys & David, devoted mum to Christopher and Sherrie, mother-in-law to Jasmine, Nanna T to Sophia, sister to Andrew, sister-in-law to Karen, auntie to Celyn and Aled and like a mother to Scott. Loved and missed by many family and friends.

Resting with Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until her funeral service at 2pm on Monday, March 2 at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only, donations towards a memorial stone welcomed and to be collected by Park Directors at the service.

Lesley Anne Stewart (nee Harris)

Peacefully on 20th February 2015. Mother of Matthew, sister to Beverley and daughter of Jon and Vi, much loved by us all.

Private cremation in Bath.

Fondest memories of our darling
PAULINE HUISH
'Polly'

Three years ago this week.

Of all the precious gifts in life, however great or small, to have you in our lives was the greatest of all.

With love & birthday wishes from all the family.

FARLEY
Patricia Ann

Avril and Alex would like to thank everyone who attended Tricia's funeral on February 13. Sincere thanks to Rev Robert Evans for conducting such a lovely service and to W James & Sons, Fonmon for all their help.

Finally, grateful thanks to her many friends, doctors, nurses and Holme Tower, who all did a wonderful job caring for and supporting Tricia during her illness.

JONES
David Frederick

Suddenly on 21 February 2015, David of Llantwit Major. Darling husband of Elke and beloved brother of Janet and brother in law John. He was a loving father to Christine, Karen and Matthew and a much loved grandfather.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 6 March at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation (cheques only please) c/o the Funeral Home.

HUGHES
Barrie

Peacefully on February 22, surrounded by his family, Barrie slipped quietly away. Darling and devoted husband of Teresa, devoted and adored father and father-in-law of Derryn, Rhys and Emma. Proud and doting grampy of Jessica, Luke, Seren and Ethan. Loving son of Les and the late Phyl. Respected son-in-law of Pam and the late Ralph, much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle, loved and respected by all who knew him.

"You looked after us all until the very end. Rest now my love until we meet again"

Funeral to take place on Friday, 6 March at The Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be made at the service to Marie Curie Cancer Care where daffodil badges will be available. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

MORRIS
Eric Humphrey

Peacefully on February 13th in Springbank Nursing Home, Barry. Eric, aged 86 years. Beloved husband of June, and dearly loved father of Josephine and Claire. A private family funeral service will be taking place.

No flowers please, if desired donations may be sent in Eric's memory to the Alzheimer's Society, 16 Columbus Walk, Brigantine Place, Cardiff CF10 4BY.

MOLLART
Shirley Vivienne

Suddenly on February 9 2015, Shirley Vivienne Mollart passed away. Beloved sister of Valerie, Hazel, Grenville and Deirdre. Much loved sister-in-law of Marion and George. Devoted aunt of Rebecca, Julia, Fiona and Alex and nephews-in-law Roger and Robert. Dear great aunt of David, Matthew and Sophie.

Shirley will be sorely missed by us all. God bless you.

Funeral will take place on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 in Coychurch Crematorium at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son. 01446 792489.

POLLY
25/27 February -
Yesterday 66yrs - Tomorrow 3yrs

Today...

'Wonderful memories, dearer than gold,
of a sister whose worth can never be told.
But every day our whole lives through,
we will always love & remember you.'

Sandra & Keith & Phil xxx

DAVIES
Ronald (Ron)

Suddenly but peacefully at home in Westgate, Cowbridge on February 19th, aged 89. Beloved husband of the late Gwen, a very much loved uncle and great uncle who will be missed awfully. A good neighbour and friend. A lovely man with a big heart.

'GOD BLESS'

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday March 10th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be sent to the British Heart Foundation. c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW.

FERRIDAY
Brian Leslie

Peacefully on February 12 after a long illness at UHW Cardiff, Brian Leslie, aged 79 years, of Claude Road, Barry. Dearly loved husband of Mary, a loved father of Robert, Mark, Alison, cherished grandfather and great grandfather, dear brother of Robert (Bob).

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday, March 3. Service in the chapel at 1.45pm, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium 3pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice in Wales.

TREPLETON
Bet (nee Slade)

Peacefully, on St Valentine's Day, Bet, aged 91 years, of Dock View Road, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Jim, proud and devoted mother of Christine, George, Frank and Robert, dear mother-in-law to Pat, Rayma and Andrea and loving grandmother to Sarah, Jolene, Ross and Clare.

Bet will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Sons, Gladstone Rd, Barry, until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Monday, March 2nd at 11am. Family flowers only, donations in memory of Bet may be made to Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI) Ltd, c/o the funeral home.

TREPLETON

Passed away on February 14th 2015.

Betty, a dear sister-in-law, will always be remembered with love by Glen & family.

Funeral Directors
(SEE MORE ON PAGE 34)

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Birthdays

TIM CHAPMAN

Happy Birthday

on 28th February

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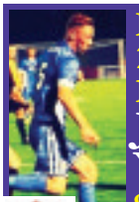

Happy 20th Birthday Joshua Yorwerth

on 28th February

Lots of love
Melanie & families *xxx*

LOOK WHO'S 21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Risby

3rd March 2015

Mum would be so proud of you.

All our love Rebekah, Nicky, Charlie & Quinn xxx

Happy 21st Birthday!

Amy Roy

on March 2nd 2015

Have a fab day
Lots of love

from Dad, Kelly, Jordan, Angela and Peter xxxx

Connor Price

Happy 18th Birthday

on February 27th 2015

LOVE YOU MILLIONS!

Mum, Dad, Abby & Lewis Xxx

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After

Before

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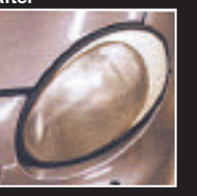

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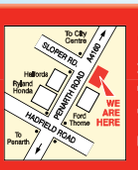

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Open evening for ladies football team

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club is running an open evening on Thursday, March 12, at St Cyres School, Penarth for new players between 5pm-6pm.

This is an opportunity to come and meet the largest female football club in south Wales who offer football for girls from age six to senior ladies in the Vale and Cardiff areas. The session will take place at the new indoor sports hall with club officials and players attending to answer any questions that parents or potential new players may have - come and find out how you can get involved.

To attend the open evening, please email: valegirlsfc@gmail.com, or simply come along on the day. **LW**

Vale CC get ready for new season

VALE CC's preparations for the new season get under way at the beginning of March.

The club's senior winter nets commence on Thursday, March 5, at Cowbridge Comprehensive School between 9-10pm where all players 15 years and over are welcome.

New players of all abilities and ages are welcome at the club which will again be playing in Division 3 of the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire League.

Anyone interested in joining should either come to the net sessions and introduce themselves, or contact Gareth Andrews on 07540 079978) or Mark Francis on 07708 005412.

The youth compete in the Cardiff and the Vale Junior League in May, June and July, with teams at under-9, under-11, under-13 and under-15. Youth nets commence at Llantwit Major school on Sunday, February 22, between 2-3pm for players between seven and 15 and run until March 29.

Qualified coaching will be offered during these sessions. Any parent interested in their child attending these session or require more information on youth cricket at the club should contact Carys Stallard on 01656 880938. **MF**

VIFC edge Wenvoe in five goal thriller

SEAN FLYNN scored an early opener for the VIFC in this game against Wenvoebefore Jordan Mortimore extended his scoring run of goals in eight consecutive games.

Wenvoe rallied at halftime and found a goal but Dean Cleave soon restored the two goal lead. Concede. Score. Repeat.

Wenvoe made it 3-2 with a well worked free-kick only for VI substitute Courtney Goodwin to complete the win with a superb lobbed effort.

It was the third time these sides have met with both sides bragging a victory over the other. Wenvoe emerged victorious in the league while VIFC knocked their title rivals out of the Barry Cup in the quarter finals.

Team: P.Lucas, J.Robinson, R.Humphreys, N.Cox, R.Lewis, T.Charles, J.Laing, D.Cleave, S.Flynn, J.Mortimore, A.Rogers. Subs: L.Lewis, C.Goodwin, D.Garrison.

Despite the win, VI Football Club still need to count on other sides to help their cause as Wenvoe still have two games in hand to play.

If both sides win the remainder of their matches, Wenvoe will win the division by a single point. **RC**

Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 23:

1st Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 65.91%, 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 61.34%, 3rd Jane Brook & David Barwood 59.60%.

This Monday we will be playing the St David's Day Celtic Sims, all are welcome - members £4 and visitors £6. **LE**

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12 **FIAT Panda 1.2 Active 5-Dr** In black, 22,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,995**
09 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met blue, 75,000 miles, ideal family hatch **£4,995**
09 **SUZUKI Splash 1.2 GLS+ 5-Dr.** In met blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance **£4,995**
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09 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In silver, 63,000 miles, low road tax **£4,995**
08 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc **£4,995**
62 **PEUGEOT 107 Active** In red, 21,000 miles, 1 owner ....**Reduced to £4,995**
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08 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-Dr** In met grey, 52,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**
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Farmers enjoy presentation evening

THE annual presentation dinner and dance for 97 members and guests of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, was held last Friday evening in the well-appointed St Quentin's Suite at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Society captain Mike King accompanied by his supportive wife Val, were delighted to welcome everyone to this most enjoyable of events, where the hard-earned awards won during the previous year were handed out to the respective winners.

The society award for golfer of the year was won for a second year running by someone now enjoying life in the 80's.

Glyn Watts-Jones, now in his 81st year, once again proved that age is no barrier when attempting to play consistently by accumulating 234 stableford points in just eight competitions to collect the President's Putter award.

Glyn's brother Brian together with Neil McLean finished joint runner up with 233 points followed with David Williams, who finished in fourth place with 232 points.

John Caines and Trevor Wooding both with 230 points finished in joint fifth place.

Following a superb evening meal, everyone was then entertained by 'Bogart', a five-piece band that provided music appropriate to the age profile of those attending, with the dance floor fully occupied for the rest of the evening.

Members are now looking forward to the start of the new golfing season which starts today (Thursday) at Southerndown Golf Club with incoming captain Brian Jones launching the opening drive.

T.McC

Welsh triples at Sully Stadium

SULLY Stadium is hosting the first and second rounds of the Welsh Bowling Association's triples competition on Sunday (March 1).

The first round consisting of eight games commences at 10am with the winners starting the second round at 2pm.

There are a number of internationals taking part, while Sully are represented by the triples of Carl Best, Ian Paterson, and Brian Griffiths, and Mat Gershenson, Martin Clarke, and Matthew Woodcock, while the other Sully triple of Gareth John, Jon Ackland and Chris Ackland, who are also through to the second round but areplaying their game at Llanelli - good luck to all the Sully triples!

Sully Stadium will be open from 9am with refreshments available throughout the day; also lunch will be available to order.

Sully members are reminded that the entry forms for 2015/16 Welsh indoor competitions are available in the foyer of the club and have to be returned by the end of March.

With all league games now finished the Sully Indoor Bowls Club's in-house competitions are fully underway with a couple of the competitions already at the semi-final stage with the finals due to take place on March 28/29.

FP

The Barry & District sports league round-up

CRIB DIVISION 1 league table:

Cadoxton Cons 145 points, Liberals 144 points, Wyndham Cons 144 points, Moors Boys 142 points, West End Wanderers 135 points, Rhoose Social 129 points, West End 129 points, Railway 112 points.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1 league table:

West End C 91.5 points, Sea View B 90.5 opints, Allsorts 79.5 points, King William XII 78.5 points, West End D 77 points, Slammers 66.5 points, Barries Boys 62 points, Rhoosters 61.5 points, Rugby Club 61 points, Rhoose Social B 59.5 points, Rhoose Social A 56.5 points, Liberals A 52 points, Rhoose Social C 52 points, Runway Club 44 points, Liberals C 38.5 points, Cambrian Flyers 37.5 points.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 0, Savoy A 5; Harbour B 4, West End C 1; Cadoxton Cons B 4, Wyndham Cons C 1; Harbour A 4, Penarth Cons B 1; Cadoxton Cons Z 2, Rhoose Social C 3; Rhoose Social B 2, Savoy B 3.

League table: Harbour B 76 points, Savoy A 73 points, Cadoxton Cons B 58 points, West End C 58 points, Cadoxton Cons Z 53 points, Rhoose Social C 47 points, Rhoose Social B 45 points, Harbour A 44 points, Wyndham Cons A 41 points, Penarth Cons B 39 points, Savoy B 34 points, Wyndham Cons C 32 points.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Railway A 4, Sully Sports A 1; Market Street C 3, Penarth Cons D 2; Penarth Cons A 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; West End B 3, Market Street B 2; Railway B 2, Liberators 3; Railway C 1, Services Social B 4.

League table: Railway A 72 points, Railway B 57 points, Market Street B 54 points, Liberators 52 points, Penarth Cons D 52 points, Services Social B 48 points, Cadoxton Cons A 46 points, Sully Sports A 46, Market Street C 45 points, Penarth Cons A 44 points, West End B 37 points, *Railway C 32 points (* points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results can be viewed at www.barryleagues.co.uk or via Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

The rain stops (steeplechase) play

THE Curre & Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases, which were due to have taken place at Howick, near Chepstow, last Sunday were rained off.

The hunt will be seeking a new date either in March or April.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Pitching in to save Vale junior football

AFTER attending a mini coaches meeting, I was extremely shocked and disappointed to hear of the lack of development and funding offered to grass roots football in the Vale – surprised at the council's option to fund a 3G pitch at Jenner Park.

To hear Phil Beaman say there are plenty of multi-court facilities for mini football to use is disgraceful.

These courts are a dangerous environment to entertain over 30 teams on a Saturday morning in one age group.

I'm now convinced The council have no idea of the size of mini football. Without investment for a 3G pitch that can be obtained for community use on a daily basis, grassroots football in the Vale will slowly die.

Funding a pitch at Jenner Park will only benefit one club that has only been going for only two years.

How many hours per week will grass roots teams be able to train there if Barry Town have their first team, youth team, and junior teams on there? Not forgetting if they set up an academy.

The response from all the clubs on the night was very good and all coaches were in agreement that the Vale of Glamorgan council should actually listen to people, instead of just going off and doing what one or two councillors think is the right idea.

No clubs were asked their opinions, yet they are the ones who have to use rundown facilities and pay through the nose for poor pitches.

Let's hope they see sense, especially with the elections coming up.

Matt Warner,
Coach, Cadoxton Barry FC under-10s.

Latest Barrivale Bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 17:

1st Mike Close & Mike Best 60.95%; 2nd Jane Brook & Irene Thomas 60.33%; 3rd=Kay Dyer & Noelle Bond 59.43%; 3rd=Mick Green & Denis Mottram 59.43%.

Jane Brook and Irene Thomas won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

RESHAPED WALES CAN BREAK UP THE FRENCH CONNECTION

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

WITH normal Six Nations service being resumed this weekend, attention now turns to the Wales team to meet France in Paris on Saturday.

The question on everyone's lips is – which team will turn up on the day? And I don't just mean the unpredictable, strangely misfiring French!

Wales, too, have lacked consistency, blowing hot and cold in the autumn tests and in the first two games of the current tournament.

They have certainly not managed to reach the glittering heights achieved in the three Grand Slam years and during the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand. There they were the team of the tournament, but controversially lost 8-9 to France in a nail-chewing semi-final at Eden Park.

That narrow, one-point margin epitomised the fine balance that has long existed between these two evenly-matched rivals from either side of the Channel, which has seen Wales win 46 of the 92 meetings since 1908 to France's 43 – with three games drawn.

This is also reflected in the total points amassed by the two sides – Wales 1,364 compared to France's 1,325.

Thus neither side can go into this battle totally confident of victory, with France, as the home team, possibly having a slight edge. However, much depends on if the Welsh team, announced on Tuesday showing four changes, has learnt the lessons of that dire second half collapse against England in Cardiff, and the narrow escape against the Scots in Edinburgh.

There can be no question that the in-form Liam Williams has thoroughly earned his starting place on the wing at the expense of Alex Cuthbert, and can be expected to pep up the backline.

Hooker Scott Baldwin, who replaces Richard Hibbard, knows he will come in for special attention from the juggernaut French pack, which will be targeting the Welsh setpiece at Stade de France and, in particular, the notoriously fragile lineout.

How he and the rest of the Welsh eight, also bolstered by impressive young tight head Samson Lee and the towering Luke Charteris, respond to this full frontal threat will inevitably hold the key to victory over Les Bleus.

It's been done before... It can be done again!

WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); George North (Northampton Saints), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets); Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues, captain), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons). Replacements: Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Paul James (Bath), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Wasps), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets).

• *This week's shock news that WRU chief executive Roger Lewis is stepping down, may be greeted with glee in some quarters – particularly the four professional regions – but it is to be hoped that it does not herald another divisive episode in our notoriously drama-prone national game*

The choice of successor could now see a major shift in power at the top and the national coach, Warren Gatland, will not be the only one looking anxiously to the future as events unfold.

First team secure a vital victory... AS THE YOUTH TEAM MAKE CUP PROGRESS

COWBRIDGE entertained Old Penarthians at the Athletic Field and secured vital points by winning 9-8.

The pitch was very soft under foot and the opening exchanges went Old Pens way and it took some good defending to keep them out. The first score was a penalty for Old Pens' outside half on 15 minutes, followed two minutes later by a try for their left wing - was this the team at the bottom of the league with no points?

Cowbridge got on the scoreboard just past the midpoint with a penalty from centre Tom Stirling. On 25 minutes full back Tom Harrison made a great break on halfway, and tried to round the full back but got hit by what was adjudged to have been an illegal tackle and from the resulting penalty Stirling added three more points hitting the crossbar on the way over.

With 10 minutes to halftime wing Will Thomas had to hold his opposite number up over the line to prevent another try. Old Pens had their second row sent off after a first yellow was followed by back chat, and their woes were compounded when their hooker was sent to the sin bin for slowing the ball down. The halftime score was 6-8.

David Popham came into the front row for the second half but the scrums were a lottery. Harrison showed his defensive qualities with a last-ditch tackle on their right wing after 15 minutes.

Prop Ben Worrell was making good yards with his drives. Geraint Thomas came on for flanker Rhod Walker at the midpoint and had several good drives himself. Supporters' hearts fluttered when there were two near interceptions for Old Pens before, on 32 minutes, Sterling added his third penalty.

With five minutes remaining wing Thomas fielded a kick and made a great 30 metre run infield that should have produced more. The last minutes were very tense as, urged on by their support, Old Pens had two scrums in the Cowbridge 22, but the error strewn match finally ended with the all important win.

Captain Matt Wright and second row partner Emyr Stone got through a lot of work in the tight and loose, while young Adam Dix, not having things all his own way, put in another gutsy performance from scrum half, but overall the game was only memorable for the result. Credit to Old Pens - they gave their all.

The BC youth were also in action at home. Perhaps suffering a hangover from their marvellous win the week before, their lacklustre performance was still good enough for a 18-3 win.

Try scorers were No 8 Dan Holder, wing Harry Driscoll, who finished a length of the pitch try started by scrum half Tom Lucas, rounding several defenders, kicking ahead and Driscoll collecting the ball to dive over; flanker Llwyd Ems also bagged one and Iestyn Jones added a penalty.

Just to emphasise their performance in the Welsh Cup, Cowbridge are now among the best four youth teams in Wales and have drawn last season's cup winners Penallta in the semi-final, the match to be played at Llanharan on March 7.

This Saturday the 1st XV are away at Dinas Powys and any sort of point there would be a bonus; then on March 7 there is another massive game at home against Caerau Ely.

The BD youth are at home this Saturday to Barry - all support would be very welcome, and a reminder that France v Wales kicks off at 5pm.

RV/RK

JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

AFTER a frustrating couple of weeks, with games being postponed at the last minute, Cowbridge under-14s continued their impressive season with a great home performance to beat Pontypool Utd 41-12.

After Pontypool had travelled all that way, Cowbridge were determined to play the game no matter what the weather threw at them. In freezing rain, Cowbridge produced some excellent rugby and scored some great tries.

During the first 20 minutes Cowbridge probably produced their best structured performance of the season. All 15 players did their own jobs to the best of their ability given the horrendous conditions.

The game's first try came after well in excess of 10 phases of play deep inside the Pontypool 22. Although Ponty defended incredibly well with a consistent recycled ball it was inevitable that Cowbridge would eventually cross the line. Jack Little, the Cowbridge prop, picked up the ball at the base of a ruck and powered his way over the line; Ioan Williams converted.

With the conditions deteriorating, Evan Thomas made a sublime inside pass to his right winger, Jack Dixon. Dixon taking the ball at speed, outpaced the Ponty back row and the covering Ponty full back to score under the posts untouched. I.Williams converted to make it Cowbridge 14, Pontypool Utd 0.

Ponty came back hard at Cowbridge and managed to secure some consistent possession deep inside the Cowbridge 22. Following a number of tap penalties Ponty scored out wide using their incredibly fast outside centre.

The next try was the try of the game, the Ponty full back put in a huge clearing kick, only for Dixon to gather the ball and set off on an amazing individual run to score under the posts. I.Williams converted to make the halftime score Cowbridge 21, Pontypool Utd 5.

Straight from the kick off Ponty once again put Cowbridge under pressure in their own 22. Following some good recycled ball of their own, the Ponty centre went over for his second try of the game. This try seemed to galvanise the Cowbridge pack, who for the rest of the game overpowered their much bigger rivals.

With freezing hands the forwards kept the ball close and used phase play to make the hard yards required to gain territory. After 10 minutes of pressure Barty Norton forced his way over the try line for his second try in consecutive games.

With the Ponty pack tiring Cowbridge did not let up. Next to score was Ben Jones, the Cowbridge openside flanker. I.Williams made a run down the blind side, and offloaded to E.Thomas who with a simple pass put Jones in for his try in the corner. With the game entering its final stages and bodies becoming very weary Barty Norton scored his second try of the game in very similar conditions to his first.

Then, with the very last play of the game, Evan Thomas pounced on a loose ball over the line to score the game's final try, the final score Cowbridge 41, Pontypool Utd 12.

A big thank you to the coaches, parents and boys from Pontypool for travelling to Cowbridge in appalling conditions and playing the game in great spirit. Hopefully this will put the boys in a confident mood for their rearrange quarter-final of the Blues Cup away at Builth Wells this week - good luck.

GJ

In weather made for ducks and penguins, Cowbridge under-11s and Llantwit Major braved the driving rain and cold to produce a tight contest.

The muddy pitch reduced the effectiveness of Cowbridge's speedy backs and played to the advantage of the heavier Llantwit forwards. Despite this Cowbridge got away to a good start as Will Evans used his strength to break several tackles and touchdown for the opening score.

Cowbridge added a second as the same player received the ball and again produced a powerful balanced run to get him over the try line. The home side replied with a try of their own to reduce the deficit to one try.

However, just before the end of the first period, Cowbridge extended their lead as winger Finlay Sullivan ploughed through the mud but was still quick enough to score in the corner.

Fly half Harry Treharne who was next to score as a typical elusive run pierced the home defence to extend the visitors lead to four tries to one.

Centre Will Evans got his third try of the game as he evaded a number of defenders to cross the whitewash. However, Llantwit refused to lie down and scored a short range try to keep themselves in the game as the second period ended.

With horizontal rain blowing across the open Llantwit pitch and bitterly cold conditions it was not surprising that some players (and supporters!) looked less than enthused about the third period.

However, one player who seemed to relish the conditions was Will Evans, who notched up his fourth try of the game to give Cowbridge a six tries to two advantage.

If the visitors thought the game was over Llantwit had other ideas as they produced a stirring comeback with three unanswered tries to leave the match delicately poised.

With only a couple of minutes left the home side were pressing strongly only to knock on close to the line which ensured Cowbridge just held out for a six tries to five victory.

Credit must go to both sides for their efforts in producing an enthralling contest in dreadful weather conditions.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Will Evans, Harry Treharne, Rhys Ford, Luke Treadwell, Finlay Ball, Ben Hardy, Will Ryan, Sam Payne, Finlay Sullivan, Steffan Evans, Robbie Brown and Oliver Jones.

MF

Cowbridge under-9s travelled to Llantwit Major for a game played in wet, muddy and freezing conditions.

This did not seem to deter Cowbridge with George Tuckley bursting through early on to put Cowbridge in front. Sam Sheppard then found space and neatly offloaded to Osian Bruce, who made no mistake from close range.

Josh Canning and Sam Jackson both penetrated the Llantwit defence setting up George Tuckley with an unstoppable burst to the line. Osian Bruce then took the ball from a scrum, raced up to the halfway line, before offloading to Joe Davies who outpaced the defence to score in the left corner.

Llantwit provided a score of their own, but the ever-present George Tuckley notched up a hat trick of tries following good work by Sam Jackson. Joe Arentsen then scored a scintillating try picking the ball up deep in his own half, sidestepping would-be tacklers and sprinting clear up the right wing.

The first half was brought to a close with concerted Cowbridge pressure followed by the inevitable Osian Bruce try, putting Cowbridge in a healthy 7-1 lead.

Llantwit regrouped in the second half breaching the Cowbridge defence for the first try of the half. The Cowbridge response was emphatic with Henry Whitehouse taking the ball at the restart and carving his way through for an outstanding try.

Despite a valiant Cowbridge defence with Harry New and Henry Whitehouse putting in some thunderous tackles, Llantwit added two further scores to close the gap. Cowbridge, however, had the last word with Ben Stephenson scoring an opportunistic interception try to seal the victory. Final score 9-4 to Cowbridge. **PS**

Top three win in darts league

IN the Cowbridge Darts League on Tuesday, February 17, a full programme of league matches was completed.

The Highwayman Inn consolidated their position in third by winning 7-2 at the Hare and Hounds, with the Edmondes A losing 3-6 to the league leaders Llanharry.

In fact, 6-3 was a popular result that evening, with the Edmondes B defeating the Edmondes C and the Farmers Arms beating the Old Post Ladies by the same score.

The league standings after 15 matches, are: Llanharry (111 points), Edmondes B (87), Highwayman Inn (77), Edmondes A (72), Hare and Hounds (62), Farmer's Arms (52), Edmondes C (49) and Old Post Ladies (28).

On Tuesday, March 3, the first round matches in the Great Western Cup (GWC), a team knockout competition will take place. The Old Post Ladies host the Edmondes A, the Highwayman Inn hosts Llanharry, the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes C and the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes B.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk **PJT**